

Seoul Station's Necromancer

- Seoul-yeog Nekeulomaenseo -

- Volume 1 -

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[NaughtyOtter (Wuxiaworld)]

- STORY -

[You have entered the dungeon at Gwachun Station's 1st Exit.]

When former high school student Kang Woojin finds himself returned back to Earth after being forcibly summoned to a foreign planet for 20 years, he soon finds that Earth is not the same, normal place as he once remembered it to be.

With his former strength and age reset back to zero, watch Kang Woojin as he gets back on the path to becoming the Earth's strongest

Necromancer!

Chapter 0 Prologue

I've finally reached here.

I don't care how the journey will end.

I'm going to go back.

"You are a necromancer that has reached the pinnacle..."

The Dimensional Administrator's voice assaulted his ear. He was a scarlet energy being who wore armor.

"Where do you want to go?"

Those were the words he wanted to hear the most.

For the past twenty plus years, he had died almost several hundred times as he endured the tribulations. Now he felt like he had received his life's reward.

"Where do you think? Of course, it's Seoul."

After spending twenty years at the planet of Alphen, he was returning home.

Chapter 1 Finally Seoul! (1)

His body was surrounded by light that flowed out from the Dimensional Administrator. His entire body was broken down at the cellular level, and then he felt the curious experience of his cells dispersing as the darkness found him.

He was in a faraway place, where he almost forgot about time. He tried hard but was barely able to hold onto his consciousness.

'Gang-woojin! Wake up.'

He didn't know how much time had passed, but light grew from the darkness. The light approached him, and he was swallowed by it. Then, the world became bright and the smell of trash filled him.

'Oooh ooh.'

He moaned, but he couldn't make any other noises. He was barely able to open his eyes, and all he could see was a battered slate roof. After a long time, he felt sensation return to his fingertips.

He felt around his surrounding. He was on top of a recyclable burlap sack. The unidentified trash smell was emanating from there.

'I've returned."

He thought he knew where this was. He remembered when he caught a glimpse of his memories, which had sank to the bottom.

'The school's incineration plant.'

He had gone over to 'that place' twenty years ago at this location. Anyways, he had returned to the starting point.

'It's been twenty years, but everything looks the same.'

It looked a little big more worn down, but the incineration plant looked the same. As he slowly waited for his sense to return, he waited for his body to recover.

"Hey. Fuck. Hurry up. You son of a bitch."

He was barely able to turn his head when he heard sudden noises. Students wearing familiar uniforms descended upon the incineration plant.

'The uniforms are the same.'

It wouldn't have surprised him if the uniform's design had changed since twenty years had passed. However, it still looked the same so it was a welcoming sight. When he saw the people, he knew he had really returned to earth, so he couldn't control his emotions.

At a glance, three uniformed students were dragging along another student. He looked too normal to be bullied. He was actually a handsome student.

"You son of a bitch. Let's begin after I hit you."

"Why should I get hit?"

"What? You son of a bitch."

Their fists started to fly, and the two were entangled in a dog fight. The bullies next to them started to join in, and the fight became a one-sided beating.

"You fucking dick, dare to challenge me?"

"You are really a fucking eyesore. Just attend school quietly."

He was having fun looking at the three of them step on the one student. Somehow, it made him think of the past. Maybe it was because he went through a wretched experience for 20 years, but the childrens' antics were cute to him.

They beat him until he thought the boy might die. However, the group stopped as they gasped for breath. The student had covered his head with his arms. He was twitching and had various scrapes and wounds. However, his eyes were still giving off a fierce light.

The group's leader, Lee-joonhyuk, didn't like the light in Do-jaemin's eyes. All of the students were afraid to look at him. They either avoided eye contact or looked at him with envy in their eyes. However, this son of a bitch was looking at him with such eyes.

"Ha, fuck. Yo, Jaemin. Does it hurt? Does it hella hurt? Didn't I tell you to stop doing irritating things in front of me? Just go to school quietly, all right?"

"Beat it. Fuck."

Irritating things? Jaemin had been studying quietly and did nothing wrong. The problem was that he was too handsome. He was being beaten because a girl had a crush on Jaemin, and she was someone Lee-soonhyuk liked.

"Ha. This son of a bitch hasn't come to his senses yet? He needs a good beating. Grab this bastard's body so he can't move."

The bullies grabbed Jae-min in place and pushed him down. Soohyuk let out a dangerous kick into the air. By the look of it, it seemed like he was going to unleash a soccer kick to the other party's head.

At that moment, all of Woojin's senses returned to him.

"Ah, that's enough."

At the sudden sound, the kids began to look around their surrounding in surprise. They saw a man wearing strange clothes getting up from atop the recyclable burlap sack.

"Fuck. What's your deal? How long have you been there?"

"Huh, fuck? The only things these brats can say is fuck when they meet a big senior that is like the heavens?"

Woojin got off the burlap sack as if he had been riding it. Ah, the Earth's surface. It has been 20 years since he had been able to step on it.

Even if they were delinquents, they were just kids in front of an adult. They were taken aback, so they started looking around furtively. Usually, the delinquents were more strict in respecting the school's lineage... (TLN: Koreans are very respectful towards the alumni of their school)

"Fuck. Who cares if you are our senior?"

...I guess not.

"Why don't you stop paying attention to us and go on on your way? I don't know why some beggar is fucking butting in. We high-schoolers aren't afraid of anything these days, Uncle. Just go on your way."

Soohyuk was very outspoken. His bluster dispeled his companions' uncertainty. Soohyuk had somewhat thought through everything. The man was here at this time in their school which meant he wasn't a teacher. Moreover, he was at the incineration plant. He was sure this guy was the neighborhood's idiot. He was also wearing very thread-bare clothes.

"Huh. Why are kids these days so rude, especially in front of a big senior with twenty years on you?"

Now Sooyuk was sure after he heard Woojin mumbled to himself. At the very least, this bastard looked to be a college student and he should still be in his 20s. He was sure this guy had lost his mind.

"If you don't want to be hit, then get lost. You little bitches."

He thought these nitwits would runaway if he scared them a little bit. Instead of being afraid, they responded with expressions of disbelief at the threateningly raised hand.

"Huh. This won't do."

Woojin pushed his hand forward, and Soohyuk flinched.

"…"

"…"

Woojin was taken aback as he extended his arm again. Why wasn't the Binding Magic forming? Soohyuk frowned at the surprised Woojin.

"Shit. What are you doing?"

"Uh? Why is it being like this? Bind!"

Woojin, who was taken aback, continuously extended his hand as he shouted. However, the magic didn't form. Soohyuk spat out insults at him.

"Shit. I got scared for nothing by this Otaku bastard."

Soohyuk was sure.

He had been scared for a moment by the village idiot, so his pride was hurt. He reflexively ran forward and swung his fist.

Before Soohyuk's fist could land on Woojin's head, he tilted it and stepped to the side.

Woosh.

"Huh. You fucking avoided it?"

Woosh.

"You son of a bitch. You're looking to die. Fuck this guy up!"

At Soohyuk's outburst, the lackeys ran in.

'Huh. I can't feel the fucking magic.'

Woojin was taken aback when the magical energy, which had basically been his hands and feet for the past 20 years, didn't respond to him. However, even if he did lose his magic, he wasn't weak enough to be hit by the fist of a mere high school boy.

Magicians were known to be physically weaker than the warriors, but this was only true in the other world. In this place, his physical ability would blow the Special Forces out of the water.

If he wanted to survive in a place crawling with monsters, his fitness had to be at such levels.

Woojin evaded each of the annoying lackeys' punches. Then, he lightly punched them in the solar plexus.

Puh-puh-puk.

"Ook."

The three precise attacks made all three of them sprawl on the floor. It happened so fast that Do-jaemin forgot about his hurting body and stared on dumbly.

"Aw... awesome."

After Woojin defeated the annoying people, he pressed his hand on his temple. When his thoughts became complicated, he had a habit of unintentionally doing this motion.

"Well, I guess it won't matter?"

Maybe it was a side-effect of the dimensional travel. He wasn't sure if he had lost his magic or it had been sealed. However, it might not have matter.

This place was Seoul.

Monsters will no longer threaten him, and he wouldn't need to fight to the death to survive.

Maybe...?

Chapter 2 Finally Seoul! (2)

The bullies coughed several times. They stealthily got up, then they hurriedly ran away after surveying the situation. Woojin thought about chasing after them. However, he didn't have any reasons to do so, therefore he left them alone.

"Th... thank you very much."

As Do-jaemin approached him, he bowed his head. This strange person was wearing weird clothes, but he had helped Jaemin.

"Ah, it is nothing. However, let me ask you a question."

Jaemin had started to come up with a story when he heard Woojin's words. Since he had rescued a kid from being beaten by bullies, he thought he would ask a question like 'Why were they hitting you?'.

Of course, this was assuming he was a normal adult.

"What's today's date?"

"Yes?"

"I'm asking for today's date."

"Ah, it is November, 10th."

"What year is it?"

"It is 2015."

"What?"

Kim-woojin was so surprised that he didn't speak for a long time. He had been 'summoned' to the other world on the year 2010. He was in his 3rd year of high school.

"Ha. What is happening?"

He had spent twenty years over there, but only five years had passed on earth. Woojin pressed his hand against his temple as he ordered his thoughts.

"Maybe this is better for me?"

He thought that twenty years had passed here and would never suspected otherwise. This was why he thought it would be impossible for him to find his family again. However, if it had only been five years, then they might be living in the same house.

Once he thought about it, it wasn't a bad situation.

He looked for a mirror in his surrounding but couldn't find one. Woojin's eyes once again looked towards Jaemin.

"Hey, how old do I look?"

"What?"

Should the idiom, 'out of the frying pan into the fire', be used in this situation? He had escaped the bullies, yet he might have been caught by a crazy person now.

Jaemin thought about what to say, but he decided to speak as he saw it.

"Around twenty-two."

"Is that so?"

'Did my body get younger? Did I find my youth after I lost all my magic? Or, was my body restructured?'

He would gradually puzzle over it, but Woojin had to resolve some urgent business first.

He had returned after twenty years, but only five years had passed.

His most urgent priority was to find his family. He couldn't remember his home phone number, and of course, he didn't remember his family's phone numbers. Fortunately, he was at the high school he had attended so he remembered how to find his way back

home to his family.

If they hadn't moved away, he would be able to have a reunion with his family today.

The problem was, how would he get home?

It was a distance that he couldn't just walk. The distance was equivalent to taking a subway through seven stations. Woojin's eyes were uncertain.

"Let me borrow some money."

"What?"

"Let me borrow some transportation fee."

Jaemin regretted not running away with the bullies. He didn't dare to refuse him. He had taken out the bullies with one blow, so if Jaemin refused, his fists wouldn't forgive Jaemin.

Jaemin turned out his pocket, then he pushed forward all his money.

He had 7300 won.

"Thank you. I promise I'll pay you back."

"N... no. You don't have to."

"Uh-huh. Do you see me as someone, who would extort from a kid? I'll pay you back."

Woojin rooted through his pocket, then he spoke as if he had forgotten something.

"Oh yeah. I don't have a hand phone. Write your phone number on a paper for me."

Jaemin followed Woojin's words, and he took out a notebook from his backpack. He ripped the corner of the notebook, then he wrote his phone number. He thought over dozens of times whether he should write his phone number or if he should write a fake number.

'Eh-it. He won't be able to tell.'

Jaemin purposefully wrote down a fake phone number. He didn't want to be called out, and be extorted again. He wanted to get out of here as fast as he can before the man could harass him.

"All right. Big brother will contact you, and I'll pay back the money."

"Yes. Have a nice day."

Even if the man doesn't pay him back, Jaemin wanted to quickly vacate this place, and he never wanted to see the man again. Woojin was alone again. He left the incineration plant then he walked around the school.

"Ha. The memories keeps popping up into my head."

Only five years had passed, but it had been twenty years since he visited his school.

"I'm 24 years old? Mother and father should be over 50 years old now."

When he thought about his family, his heart was deeply moved again. He had endured the hellish time, as he wished for the day he would once again return to his family's embrace.

"I wonder if Sooah grew a lot?"

His youngest sibling, Sooah, was 2 years old when he left, so she should already be 7 years old now. Woonjin's steps quickened as he thought about his family.

When he walked on the side-walks after exiting the school, every person he met whispered behind his back. It was understandable since Woojin's clothes was in rough shape.

Maybe it was the effect of the Dimensional Travel, but his equipment had evaporated. Woojin looked like a mess. Even the shoes he wore were leather shoes, so he would look strange in the eyes of the people.

"Jeez."

He was unnecessarily embarrassed, but it couldn't curb Woojin's spirit. Woojin's mental state had transcended the point where he wouldn't lower his head, because of his clothes.

It'll only be embarrassing until he had reached his house.

Woojin tried hard to ignore the whispers emanating from the people, and he found the subway station.

"Huh? Why is the military troops here? Was there an accident?"

Soldiers were clustered around the entrance to the subway station. It didn't seem like a training exercise. They even put up a steel fence, and they had guards posted.

"Jeez. What is this?"

Woo-jiin tried to talk to a pedestrian passing by at that moment.

"Excuse me. I would like to ask you a question."

"Ah, I don't believe in it."

An older woman in her 40s replied in annoyance as if she had seen some kind of insect. She hurriedly moved her feet, and she disappeared in haste.

What is this? It felt weird.

He quickly stopped two female students, who seemed to be high school students.

"Excuse me."

"Ah, let go of me. I don't know anything about religion."

Woojin became angry at the irritated response, but he tried hard to calm him heart.

"I'm not here to ask you to believe in a religion. What are those soldiers doing over there? Are they training?"

"Of course, the soldiers are guarding the dungeon entrance. Ah, let me go. I have to go to my tutoring school."

The female student broke free from Woojin's grasp. She started walking away, while she rubbed her arm as if his touch was unclean.

"Ha, how rude."

He guessed people referred to the subway station as dungeons. He thought the five years was a short time, but apparently it wasn't.

"I guess it is a popular slang used by the kids."

Well, he did the same thing when he was in school.

Short-handed words and slangs changed incredibly fast with the development of the internet. It wouldn't be surprising if someone like Woojin from 5 years ago would not know these terms.

"Huh? There are no soldiers over there."

After confirming no one was present at the entrance of the subway station across the street, he crossed the street. When he descended the stairway of the subway entrance, he saw iron bars and a steel door like one would see in a prison.

"What the heck? Why did they block this place off?"

No wonder no one was here. They had shut this place down. Woojin looked across the steel bars, and he saw light coming from the subway tunnel.

The steel door was locked with a sturdy lock. He looked around his surrounding and he saw a small booth like the apartment guard booths. He looked around inside, and he saw a bundle of keys. He took it and he tried to open the lock.

Click.

"What is this? Did the subway workers go on a strike?"

He returned the bundle of keys to the booth, then he headed toward the other side of the steel door. There were no one underneath the blinking florescent lights, and the atmosphere was quite creepy.

"They might have shut down the station instead of going on a strike."

If the station was shut down then there was no chance they would operate the subway train.

Woojin was about to turn around when it happened.

< You have entered the dungeon at Gwachun Station's 1st Exit.>

"Huh. What is this?"

Chapter 3 Level Up! (1)

"Ha. This dungeon is a real dungeon?

He thought it was a slang, but it didn't seem like it.

His head throbbed, so he pressed his hand onto his temple.

Woojin let out a sigh then he sorted through the message in front of his eyes.

<This dungeon has already been captured. The basic monsters will be summoned.>

It was a sufficiently shocking situation, but Woojin wasn't shocked. Instead, he felt a feeling of familiarity.

"Isn't this too similar to the Planet Alphen?"

Woojin had fought fiercely to survive in that place. The planet of Alphen was none other than a game world. No. Should he characterize it as a new world with a game setting?

"Did earth change? Or is it only like this for me?"

Woojin puzzled over it, but he couldn't come up with an answer. He just wanted to take a subway train yet he had entered a dungeon. By the look of it, earth must have gone through some kind of change in the past 5 years.

"Let's go back out first."

If he can't ride the subway, then he'll just ride the bus. As Woojin tried to head back, an invisible barrier barred his way.

<You do not have the Return Stone.>

"Huh. Jeez."

Woojin scratched the back of his head. He had no idea what the Return Stone looked liked, so he was in a bind.

"I guess it was locked for a reason."

His curiosity made him open this place. He wanted to head back, but now he was complete stuck. He had no choice, but to find the thing called Return Stone to escape this place.

"Let's see."

He had lost his magic. He wasn't sure why, but his trained body was still the same. Moreover, he had over 20 years of survival experience.

He looked through an out of business store, and he was able to find a coat hanger.

Ggee-reeek.

He easily took out the pole from the coat hanger, which he made into a simple club. However, he was disappointed.

"This is too light."

He looked around the adjacent store. In the middle of the mess, there was a hammer.

Boo-oong. Boong.

"This might be useful."

Woojin took the hammer, then he swung a chair onto the floor. He tore the back of the demolished chair out. After smoothing it over, he was able to make a decent shield that would be able to take a couple hit.

"Should I depart?"

He didn't know what the Return Stone looked like, but he had been told the basic monsters had been summoned. He wasn't sure about his level of preparation, so he felt a sense of uncertainty. However, it was a situation where he couldn't retreat backwards.

He had no choice, but to go forward.

Woojin walked as he relied on the blinking florescent lights. Then he felt a weird sensation coming from the subway's restroom. It was a sticky sensation as if someone was watching him.

He stealthily lowered his body. He picked up a piece of tile then he threw it.

Che-eng.

It reacted at the sound made by the tile hitting a glass door.

"Koo-rooo."

It let out a grotesque shriek. It had a strange appearance, so much so that one wouldn't think this creature would exist on earth. It looked like a dog, but it possessed large ears like a rabbit.

It was a creature that shouldn't exist on earth, but Woojin knew this monster well. He had faced off against this monster countless times at the Planet Alphen.

"Drabbit."

"Kwaah."

The Drabbit ran in as it threateningly revealed its twin fangs. It used its large hind legs, which composed half of its body, to charge by jumping. It was the Drabbit's specialty, and its only method of attack.

Boom.

As soon as he blocked with his shield, he swung the hammer.

"Ggoo-rook."

As he struck the Drabbit, it rolled onto the floor as it let out a scream. Woojin didn't hesitate. He ran forward to press down on its neck then he used the back of the clawed hammer to pierce it.

When a familiar monster showed up, he didn't feel much threat from it, but he couldn't

let his guard down. He had to go for the sure kill when he had the chance to kill it.

This was the basic and essential rule one needed to heed in order to survive against a monster.

The Drabbit's body sagged as it let out a moan akin to a wind escaping. Afterwards, Woojin hurriedly checked his surrounding. The Drabbit had a characteristic where they traveled in a pair.

As expected, another Drabbit jumped out, and it flew toward him with its scary mouth open. The shield he made out of the back of a chair was already broken from the last attack.

Woojin hefted his hammer then he swung it.

Kwa-jik!

"Ggueeeek."

The clawed hammer accurately pierced through the Drabbit's mouth, and it stuck out from the back of its head. He had timed it perfectly as he used an exquisite thrust to execute a counter.

"How come this feels like a deja-vu?"

Woojin remembered the first time he was summoned to the Planet Alphen. He was so shocked and afraid. However, his situation right now was more favorable than before.

"How is it possible for the monsters of Planet Alphen to show up here? Even this dungeon feels out of place."

He felt an unknown sense of danger. The feeling felt too familiar to him.

The message that showed up in front of his eyes, and even the monsters starting to emerge were something that wouldn't have been strange on Planet Alphen. However, this was earth.

The problem was this was a subway station on earth.

"I guess I'll level up if this continues."

This was one of the reason why Woojin was able to survive on Planet Alphen.

That place was like a game world. No, Woojin might have felt this way since he was a human from earth, who was familiar with games.

It might be that world's law of nature, but it had felt like a game for Woojin. The only difference was that the world wasn't a virtual reality. It was real.

Levels had existed, and Woojin had developed into a full level Necromancer. He hadn't reached the end of the road, but he had met the Dimensional Administrator. So he returned to earth without much regret.

He had lost all of the magic he had accumulated, but he hadn't cared. He thought his abilities wouldn't be needed on earth where he didn't have to worry about dying any more.

However, he found himself entered into a dungeon, and he could only desire after his lost abilities. If it was something on par with the Drabbit, then he could face them without feeling any panic. However, if there were stronger monsters here then it might be too dangerous for him.

The most optimal situation was to earn the Return Stone without meeting a stronger monster.

"If this place is similar to Alphen, a monster should have it or it should be emanating a distinct energy."

If it was a stone or an item with an ability then its existence itself should let out an energy. He looked over the two monsters, but they didn't possess any unique mana gem called Bloodstone.

"These bastards are worthless."

Woojin left the corpses of the Drabbit where he searched them, and he hid himself next to a pillar. He thought it would be great if a nearby monster would come here after smelling the blood. Even if none showed up, he could restart the search after gathering himself.

"Queereek?"

Two Drabbits showed up, and they started circling around the corpse of the dead Drabbits. They looked like dogs, but their sense of smell wasn't that developed. They used their hearing to locate the location of other beings.

Crack.

Woojin purposefully stepped hard on a piece of tile to reveal his existence.

"Qweeeeee!"

The two Drabbits simultaneously ran towards him, and they jumped towards Woojin.

Woojin grasped the hammer, and he performed a baseball swing.

Puh-uk, puk!

The two Drabbit jumped with a time difference between the two. He crushed the Drabbit's head in succession. Then a message popped up in front of his eyes.

<Level Up!>

Chapter 4 Level Up! (2)

"Huh. Is this for real?"

Woojin was taken aback, and he hurriedly opened his Status Window.

Level: 1

Name: Gang-woojin

Class: Necromancer(Advanced)

Grade: Middle Rank

Achievement: 4

Magic Point: 0/0 Energy: 0/0

<Stat>

Strength: 15 Speed: 13 Health: 17 Wisdom: 15

Magic: 0 Vitality: 0 Recovery: 0 Healing 0 Control: 0

Undistributed Points: 99

<Skill>

Combination Box Summoning(lv 1)(Advanced Skill)(Impossible to add points)

Use of Achievement Shop(lv 1)(Advanced Skill)(Impossible to add points)

Undistributed Points: 99

The Status Window differed greatly from the time he was first summoned to the Planet

Alphen. He felt confused. However, he was able to realize the implications soon.

"Ha, it hadn't disappeared."

He had thought all of his powers he had accumulated on Alphen had disappeared in the process of returning to earth.

Advanced.

As the words indicated, his full level character had become level 1. However, he had received several benefits. At a glance, he had receive two advanced skills. His stat points and skill point was the equivalent to the level he had been before the advancement.

"Also, my class is the same. It's Necromancer."

He had achieved everything he could as a necromancer. He had also controlled and used the Undead, which was known to be the ultimate existence.

This wasn't a bad thing at all.

Seoul seems to have changed in a weird way. He didn't know what will happen in the future, so it wasn't a bad thing to have power. He couldn't see far into the future, but he needed the power to safely escape this dungeon.

When he leveled up, Woojin felt relieved. Also, there was a margin for error for him now. He had recovered the power he thought he had lost. He had less mental fatigue when thinking about how to prepare for the danger.

He didn't want the monsters to mob him after smelling the blood, so he retraced his steps. As soon as he returned to the pathway where the damaged stores were lined up, he started looking at the newly formed Advanced Skills.

He could combine various ingredients to receive a new item. He might be able to put in items to extract a key ingredient.

"How do I use this?"

It was a skill he had never seen before, so he didn't have the faintest idea on how to use it. He tried speaking the activation word, and he searched for various methods.

Eventually he was able to find the Inventory.

There was a Combination Box located on the lower half of the Inventory. He tried to touch it, and as if another Inventory was opening up, there were buttons on the bottom.

[Combine] and [Extract].

"Chet, the Inventory Expansion returned to it original state."

The Inventory had only 3 columns of space. As one's level increases, the Inventory expands. However, it seemed like it didn't receive any Advancement Benefits, so he was disappointed.

Of course, the most disappointing part was the items he had accumulated before had all disappeared.

Woojin touched the other Advanced Skill called Achievement Shop.

He tried various method, but he was able activate the Achievement Shop through an activation word. He repeated saying the activation word, and he found out it was possible to open the Shop without saying anything.

The Shop was lined up with Skill Books, Equipments and Consumable Items. He needed a large sum of Achievement Points to purchase them.

"This is fun."

The Alphen Planent didn't have an Achievement Shop. This was akin to internet shopping where he didn't have to go to a location to purchase the items.

"There aren't anything I want to buy."

The equipments he could buy was low-grade. The thing he needed the most right now is a Skill. Even the lowest skill required 10 achievement points.

Woojin eventually chose three skills.

[Search], [Detect], [Skeleton Soldier Summon]

Each of the skills required 10 achievement points. He decided to get Search to help find items in his surrounding. He needed the skill to find the Return Stone.

Detect was a passive skill. It would accurately alert him of danger in advance. It was an essential skill in helping him survive.

The Skeleton Soldier Summon was one of the basic skills of a Necromancer.

Whether it was the effect of the Advancement or maybe it was the fact that his class was automatically selected, there were constraints in which skills he could learn. He was able to learn common Magic Skills and weapon skills, but he could only learn the Class Skills of a Necromancer.

"Well, I should worry too much about it right now. I'm short on points any ways."

He looked at the 4 points he had accumulated, so the method was clear. One Drabbit gave 1 point. He'll be able to purchase one Skill if he defeat 6 more Drabbits.

He immediately needed his fighting capabilities. It would allow him to defeat the monsters safely. It was a problem he could solve without purchasing a Skill.

<Stat>

Strength: 30 Speed: 30 Health: 30 Wisdom: 30

Magic: 10 Vitality: 0 Recovery: 10 Healing 10 Control: 9

Undistributed Points: 0

Woojin distributed his points. He swung the hammer as he looked at the updated Stat Window.

Boo-oong. Boong.

A destructive sound that couldn't be compare to before emanated. He moved his body a little bit, and his body was lighter than before. Moreover, his reaction speed couldn't be compared to before.

He possessed 10 times the capability of a normal human. Woojin had 3 times the strength of a normal adult male. He was also 3 times faster, and his stamina was 3

times better.

"I'm not sure if I'm 3 times smarter."

His ability to memorize and calculate had definitely improved. It felt like his brain worked faster. However, the difference in his body movements were much more noticeable.

"Ok, let's go."

He had to defeat 6 Drabbits. He had to acquire the Search Skill. He'll find the Return Stone, then he'll escape the dungeon.

Woojin headed back downward as he held onto to his clawed hammer.



"Ha, there are so many of them."

On the Planet Alphen, there were so many Drabbits that one might trip over them. It basically meant they were easy to find, and they were very easy to defeat. However, he felt fatigued after facing them continuously in the narrow pathway.

Woojin took in a ragged breath.

As soon as he went down the stairs, he had methodically defeated the Drabbits he faced. He was able to steadily accumulate his Achievement Points. He had defeated 27 Drabbits as he traveled through the dark passageway.

He was able to purchase the essential Search and Detect skills with his Achievement Points.

At the same time as he purchased them, the Skill Books appeared in his Inventory, and he learned them immediately.

It consumed one Magic Point every time he used it. He tried using the Search Skill, but he didn't see any items that could be called a Return Stone.

He had traveled the same passageway, and he failed to find the Return Stone. There was only one place left.

"Do I have to go down there?"

Woojin hid himself behind the handrail as he glanced down the stairs. It was inner part of the station where the wrecked subway was located at.

At a glance, he could see over 20 Drabbits milling about. It was possible for him to face 3-4 Drabbits in a tight passageway, but he wouldn't be able to face over 20 Drabbits in a large open space. If he became surrounded by them, then he'll inevitably be hurt.

"Whew. It really isn't in my personality to move around on my own."

Woojin smirked as he looked at the clawed hammer, which was stained with Drabbit's blood.

He opened the Achievement Shop, then he purchased the [Skeleton Soldier Summon] Skill Book with his remaining points.

Chapter 5 Closed Dungeon (1)

The monster's corpses was used to summon the Skeleton Soldier with [Strength 5 Agility 8 Health 5].

Consumed Magic Point: 1, Required Control: 1

Woojin had defeated an additional 27 Drabbits, and he had leveled up twice. He was currently at level 3. Every time he leveled up, he received 5 Stat Points and he distributed the 10 Stat Points into Magic and Control.

Magic: 15 Control:14

If he summoned 15 Skeleton Soldiers, he'll only be able to keep 14 of them. Once the Summons exceeds the range of his Control, they would turn into monsters beyond his control.

"Wake up, my minions."

Woojin had reached the pinnacle as a Necromancer. After being transported, he had to restart from a low level, but it was a path he had already walked. He didn't have to worry about Spells or Activation Words.

It was possible to manifest his familiars and mastered magics using just his will.

"Koo-roo-roo."

From nearby, the three corpses of the Drabbit exploded, and three Skeleton Soldiers was summoned. They were very weak, so he rarely used them in his latter-days. Still, he felt extremely happy to see them again.

"Let's go."

He still didn't have rear any support magic, but it would not be a problem with the Drabbits. Woojin and the three Skeleton Soldiers descended the stairs. It caused the

Drabbits to run towards them in response.

"Charge!"

"Keehhhhhhk!"

The Skeleton Soldiers let out a horrible shriek, then they ran forward swinging their bone knives threateningly.

Puh-uk!

"Kee-ehk."

One Skeleton Soldier fell into a heap from one blow as a Drabbit used a menacing head-butt. The others were lucky. They were only bitten on their arms and legs.

Since the Skeleton Soldiers were composed of bones, attacks using teeth weren't a threat. The Skeleton Soldiers were very weak, and their attack capabilities were insignificant. They swung their blunt bone knives, but it wasn't very effective against the Drabbits.

However, they had blocked the Drabbit's dangerous first charge, so they had done their job.

Puh-uk, puk!

Woojin swung his clawed hammer, and the Drabbit's heads continued to explode. In a flash, he had killed three Drabbits, and he used them as fodder to summon an additional three Skeleton Soldiers.

"Kee-kee-keek."

One had been demolished, but the number of Skeleton Soldiers had increased. The five Skeleton Soldier's reliably blocked in front of Woojin. Woojin used his will to control them as he advanced.

"Kweeeehk!"

From between the broken windows of the subway train, Drabbits ran out en masse. There were so many of them that Woojin halted in his track for a moment.

"Block them!"

The 5 Skeleton Soldiers stood parallel to each other as if they were setting up a barricade.

Puh-puh-puk!

The Drabbits jumped at the Skeleton Soldiers like moths to a flame, and they started head-butting the Skeleton Soldiers' limbs.

Puh-suk!

The middle Skeleton Soldier fell. One Drabbit broke through the line, and it flew accurately towards Woojin's head.

Woojin swung the clawed hammer like a clean-up hitter as it split the air.

"One more added!"

The corpse of the Drabbit was flung away, and the corpse exploded to form another Skeleton Soldier.

Woojin headed towards the Drabbits tangled between the Skeleton Soldiers, and he brought down his clawed hammer as if he was threshing.

"Die. Die!"

Puh-puh-puk!

As he ended the Drabbit's lives, he intermittently summoned more Skeleton Soldiers.

Woojin had 15 Magical Points.

His Magical Points would become empty if he summoned 15 times. The Magical Points recovered naturally, but one could use items or Skills to recover it.

If he increased the [Recovery] stat, then his natural recovery of Magical Points quickened. For a Magician, the most important stats were Wisdom, Magic, and Recovery.

The stat [Healing] dealt with the natural recovery of his body. It increased the recovery speed of [Vitality], which was consumed when one used Healing Skills or Combat Skills.

This was the most important Stat for Warriors.

Woojin possessed 10 Stat Points on both Recovery and Healing. After a certain amount of time, the Recovery would restore 10 Magic Points, but the more important one was the 10 points in Healing.

After one day, a shallow wound would disappear without any scarring as it healed.

"All of you die!"

He trusted his healing power, so Woojin charged as he hefted his clawed hammer.

Boo-oong, puk! Boo-oong, Pul!

His movements already exceeded the limits of a human. Every time he swung his clawed hammer, a Drabbit died.

The couple dozen of Drabbits filling the subway station was defeated in a matter of moments.

When Woojin's reached level 4, his low Magical Points instantly recovered.

"Ha, I'm so thirsty."

Woojin looked around the station, which had turned into a field of Drabbit's corpses, and he headed towards the vending machine. He pried open the door of the already broken vending machine.

Kwajik.

He used his superhuman strength to create a gap between the vending machine's door, and couple cans came into sight. Woojin picked up a cola can, and he blew on top of it.

The accumulated dust flew into the air. It looked to be relatively intact, so it seemed like he could drink it.

Ddak. Cheeeeek. (TLN: tab opening sfx, fizzing sfx)

When he opened the can, he gulped down the warm coke.

"Kooahhh. Ggguhoooo." (TLN: sfx)

The fizzing gas made him belt out a satisfying burp. Woojin grinned.

He had defeated the monsters inside the subway station, which had turned into a dungeon. It almost made him think this was still Planet Alphen. However, the refreshing carbonated drink he hadn't had in 20 years made his return to earth very real to him.

"I really have to go back home."

Woojin's Magical Point had been restored, so he used the Search Skill.

"Mmm."

Around the broken subway train's front car, he could see a sparkling soft light. When he approached it, he saw a finger-sized gem.

When Woojin grabbed the gem emitting a soft green light, the light dimmed.

Woojin carried the item back to where he came from. When he was close to the barrier, the Return Stone let out a light, and it scattered as it touched the barrier.

Che-che-choot.

After seeing the barrier disappear, Woojin went up the stairs of the Gwachun Station's 1st Exit.



"Ooh ooh. I thought I was going to shit my pants."

Oh-joonhwan was a rank 9 public servant. After completing the assault, he had been assigned to the closed [Gwachun Station 1st Exit] dungeon as an Access Control Personnel. It had been one month since he was dispatched here.

He fulfilled the temporary reassignemnt period without any accidents happening.

He'll be going back to the headquarters tomorrow. After he hurriedly returned after using the restroom, it felt like the sky was about to fall.

"What, what is this?"

The locked Dungeon entrance door was open.

He felt dizzy, and the sky turned yellow.

"D... did a civilian go in? Ha, I'm fucked."

It was unlikely to think that a Roused had entered a closed Dungeon. The [Gwachun Station's 1st Exit] wasn't a Spot where particular ingredient items dropped. It was a just a dungeon infested by the low-ranked monster, Drabbit.

Unless it was a beginner Roused looking to train here, he couldn't think of a reason why someone would look for a dungeon that didn't drop anything of significance. It was hard to think a Roused would go into a location with no benefits.

Moreover, a Roused could just apply to enter the Dungeon in the first place. This was why he was assigned to this place.

He looked across the open entrance, and he was able to see that the barrier had already formed. It was a signal indicating someone was inside the dungeon.

"Ha, fuck. I'll have to quickly request for help."

For the Roused, the Drabbits were classified as a low level monster, but it was a monster to civilians. Oh-joonhwan was about to quickly make a call, but the barrier became clouded and a man walked out.

"Uh uh?"

Before he could press the send button, Joonhwan's body froze. Woojin slowly walked out, and he was surprised when he met the gaze of Joonhwan.

"Ah, I opened the door and entered out of curiosit..."

"Are... are you a Roused?"

At Joonwan's question, Woojin puzzled over his words. Before he could speak, Joonhwan spoke quickly.

"Whew. You almost took 10 years off my life. Please leave a record of your entrance. Whew. It's quite fortunate. Why did you go into a dungeon with nothing to gain? You cleared it as a Solo Player, so you must be quite strong."

He passed over the Dungeon Entrance Record Log to Woojin. He half-assedly wrote down his name, and position. Then he kept his words scarce.

'Why do you think I went in? I wanted to ride the subway home.'

He didn't have an explanation, so he thought it was best to stay silent. The other man was making up an excuse for him. After signing everything, Woojin confidently asked a question.

"May I go now?"

"Ah, you can go now."

Woojin turned around to ask a question after taking a couple steps. The 5 years wasn't a short of an amount of time as he initially thought since it seemed Dungeons and the Roused had come to be in that time period.

"How much is the bus fee these days?"

"What?"

What the heck? He had heard almost all Roused were rich.

Chapter 6 Closed Dungeon (2)

"The world has changed a lot."

Woojin looked out the bus window, and he mumbled as he looked at the scenery. The bus fee had increased by 300 won, but the most noticeable change that caught his eyes was the amount of cars on the road had decreased significantly.

The tv attached to the bus was talking about which subway stations and exits had been successfully attacked. It was going on and on about similar topics.

'If the attack on the Dungeon is successful, we will be safe for at least couple days, and couple months at most. If we fail, the Monsters will be unleashed.'

The news continued to play incessantly. It started to narrow the gap between the reality regarding the past 5 years for Woojin. In the World News topic, they talked about the Monsters that had burst forward from the subway stations in Tokyo, and they had to mobilize their army to block them.

'The areas around the Subway Station are old news.'

If the capture of a dungeon failed, one had no idea when the monsters would burst forward. It was like living next to a bomb, so no one wanted to live next to the stations.

Rather than living next to the subway stations, people would joke it would be safer to live next to a Nuclear plant.

Of course, Seoul's population had significantly decreased, and the decreased population led to less traffic. The bus drove as if it was flying.

When the bus stopped, it felt as if the world in front of him had turned yellow.

"The h... house....."

The apartment, which was Woojin's home, was gone.

""

He was so shocked that he was having a hard time speaking. The apartment Woojin had lived in was gone.

Originally, it was a 5 story high apartment. They always talked about rebuilding the apartment, but it had disappeared within 5 years. He would have never guessed an imposing building would take its place.

Even at a glance, he could tell it wasn't an apartment. The structure looked like an office building, and it authoritatively shot into the air. Woojin was looking at the building from close by, and the security guard deemed him suspicious. So the security guard approached him.

"What are you doing?"

The security guard abruptly questioned him, and Woojin had to push down his anger. Woojin couldn't kill him for not liking him, and he couldn't damn his soul for the heck of it. Those actions were only possible at Planet Alphen.

This was Earth.

Woojin forced down his anger, and he pressed his hand against his temple. After a moment, it felt as if his anger had somewhat calmed.

"What happened to the people who used to live here?"

"Huh?"

"The people who used to live in the apartment before this building was built!"

"No, I'm asking why are you asking me..."

The security guard, who had been glaring at him, avoided his gaze in surprise. How could someone's eye become so scary?

"I... I don't know. This place was in ruins before this building was built.

"In ruins?"

Woojin's forehead was bulging with veins. The security guard let out a cold sweat at his chaotic expression.

Numerous people died 5 years ago from the Dungeon Shock. It would be correct to say everyone who was using the subway at the time had all died.

If a Dungeon can't be cleared within a month, the dungeon will explode and the Monsters would pop out. Countless number of people were killed or hurt when that happened.

Seoul was too large and slow to deal with the sudden change. They even dropped missiles on locations where the Monsters broke out.

"When... when the monsters broke out, Jichun had been turned into ruins. So why are you making a fuss?"

Woojin controlled his anger inside when he heard the security guard's words.

'Calm down. Be calm.'

It wasn't the time to lash out at anyone. His family was alive. They were alive. At those thoughts, he was barely able to hang on to the thread of his anger.

It would be ridiculous for him to become unruly based on an assumption. It was unbecoming of an intellectual mage like him.

"Whew. It's only been 5 years. There are many ways to find them."

He thought he had returned after twenty years, but only 5 years had passed. Yes, only 5 years. If he went to the borough office, their last known address should be there. He would know if they were still alive by looking at the family register.

'Ah, I don't know my social security number.'

He was assigned his SSN during his 2nd year in high school, but he had no idea where it was any more. He could go to his alma mater to get his SSN.

He'll know it once he searched through the student records. If he was lucky, he'll also be able to find out the hand phone number of his parents, which he had forgotten.

As his thoughts connected to make a plan, he felt a calm sensation.

Yes, all of his family was safe. He just hadn't found them yet. It was already past 6 o'clock, so he couldn't go back to his school to make the request. He was stuck.

It wasn't hard to prioritize what he had to do next.

He'll have to find a place to sleep, and...

Growl.

Woojin stabbed his hand into his pocket, and he touched the 5800 won he had. Woojin turned his head, and he was able to see a restaurant in a building across the street.

Woojin crossed the side walk.

"Ha. What kind of rice soup costs 6000 won?" (TLN: You get a soup and a bowl of rice + banchan. You basically flip the rice into the soup. There are restaurants specifically catered to these dishes.)

Woojin complained as he drank the cup ramen's soup. Since he didn't have the 200 Won, Woojin was treated like a beggar, and he was chased out of the Rice Soup Restaurant.

Of course, it wasn't the shortage of 200 won that decided it, but his beggar-like outfit had a bigger role in the decision to kick him out.

"Chet. The darn grandma probably wouldn't give me rice soup even if I was freezing to death."

Woojin unnecessarily thought about the cold-hearted lady from the Rice Soup restaurant as he chewed on an onigiri. He felt sad since he didn't have any money. However, he hadn't had a cup ramen, and an onigiri in a long time, so it was delicious.

"Ah, where do I sleep tonight? Do I really have to go to the police station?"

He hadn't done anything wrong, so why didn't he want to go to the police station? He guess he did couple of bad things... several dozens of bad things. He had also killed a

couple... He had kill countless number of people, but this all happen on the Planet Alphen.

The Earth's Kang-woonjin was just a normal... He wasn't normal since he had disappeared during his 3rd year of high school He was a child, who had returned after a 5 year absence.

"Ah, I guess they would ask me all sorts of questions if I go to the police station."

Where have you been? What were you doing before you came back? Why didn't you try to keep in contact? His head hurt when he thought about the report he had to make up.

He decided going to the police station was a last resort. Any ways, it wasn't as if he didn't have any other choice.

"Whew."

Even though the land prices had collapsed completely in Seoul, and the population had decreased significantly, Woojin still didn't have a home to lay down in.

He was overjoyed at seeing a convenience store in 20 years, so he had bought hot bars, and drinks. In the end, all the money he had left was 300 Won. It was an amount where he wouldn't even be able to enter a sauna nor a PC room.

Well, even the subway stations where the homeless go to are off limit now, so he had no choice but to greet the morning in the streets. At that moment, he heard the convenience store's door open, so he reflexively turned his head.

Ring.

As the convenience store's door opened, Woojin's eyes sparkled as he saw a familiar face.

This was fate. He was sure it was fate.

Do-jaemin. The school junior he had helped out in the evening was picking out an onigiri.

Woojin downed the rest of the soup left inside the cup ramen, then he stood up. He

paid for his items, then Woojin quickly followed after him. "Hey, student." "Yes?" Jaemin turned his head, and he saw a pale ghost-like face. Woojin smiled from ear to ear. "Haha. I was about to call you yet we meet again." "W... why? Why would you..." Jaemin haltingly took a step backward. "Is your parents home?" "Why would you want to know that?" Jaemin reacted in a sensitive manner. Woojin made a face indicating it wasn't a big deal, then he put on his most trustworthy smile. "Including the previous incident, I have a lot of things to discuss with them." "My parents have passed away." "Huh? That's goo... No, that is unfortunate. Are you living by yourself?" Jaemin nodded his head with wariness filling his face. "You lead the way." "Why?" "Let me stay at your place for one night." Jaemin had a dumbfounded expression on his face. The strange uncle wearing a straw mat, who was frighteningly good at fighting, was trying to invade his home.

"Ah, it isn't for free."

He forced Jaemin's hand open to place something in it.

300 Won.

Isn't this the money he had extorted from him? Jaemin looked back with a dumbfounded gaze, and as if even Woojin was embarrassed, he grinned.

"Haha. I'll pay you back anything I'm short on. Huh huh. Why is there a fly here?"

He slyly let fly a fist into the empty air like a boxer. No, he was like a Roused where the sound of the air splitting apart was produced.

Jaemin could only walk toward his house with a tearful face.

Chapter 7 To Home (1)

Regret kept flowing in.

Even as Jaemin put in the secret code for the gate in front of his house, he was feeling regret.

'He couldn't be a really weird person, right? He probably arrived in the city today, so maybe he doesn't have a place to stay?'

Woojin gave a somewhat believable backstory to Jaemin.

He said he had lost his memory 5 years ago in the Dungeon Shock, and he had retreated in to the Jiri Mountain. Inside the Jiri Mountain, he had served a strange Taoist priest as sensei.

While serving the ill-tempered Taoist, he suddenly regained his memory. This was why he had returned to Seoul, and he had returned to the high school where he had lost his memory.

Woojin told him a story even a third rate drama wouldn't use. Jaemin was on the fence as he looked at Woojin.

'If he is in such a situation, he should go to a police station.'

Jaemin didn't even get to say this out loud. When the sound of a police siren passed by, Woojin let out several jabs into the air as he caught the flies.

Jaemin thought he would probably get knocked out even from one hit. No, he might die...

"Oh well. I have no clue. If he meant me harm, then he would have done it by now."

Ddee-dik, Ddee-ro-ri. (TLN: input sfx)

The door opened, and he followed in after Jaemin. Woojin smiled radiantly.

"Wow, you have a nice house."

The house was an ordinary villa's studio. As the land price became cheap in Seoul, the rent became cheap as empty houses increased. However, the electric and gas fee had increased as well, so it was still hard for people to live there.

The Monsters always destroyed all the infrastructure, so of course, the price would increase.

The studio was quite large. There were a lot of room left even after a bed and a desk was put in there.

"Ha ha. I'll be in your debt for a day. Do you mind if I wash first?"

Woojin brazenly spoke as he headed towards the restroom. He took off the pieces of straw mat then he took a shower. Jaemin could only sigh as he heard weird sounds come from the restroom like "Uhmmm, huh, this is great."

"Ha..... I wonder if this is appropriate."

They had talked about various topics while coming here, and he didn't seem like a bad person. This was just a hunch he had felt.

Even if Woojin didn't look like a bad person, he was assuredly weird. He had fallen into Woojin's pace, and before he realized it, they had come home together.

Jaemin munched on the onigiri he bought from the convenience store. This was his dinner. The money he needed to purchase dinner was taken by Woojin, so he had no choice.

"Whew. That was refreshing. Hey, do you have any clothes you were going to throw away?"

"...wait a moment."

Woojin acted as if he was visiting the house of a very close cousin. Jaemin was uncomfortable with the situation, but the water had already been spilt. He just gave Woojin the basic white t-shirt, and a black shorts.

"Do you have an underwear?"

"I'm already burdening you, so it would bother me a little if I took your underwear and wore it."

Woojin laughed brazenly, and he wore his clothes as he went commando. Then he opened the refrigerator to take out a bottle of water, and he downed it. Jaemin didn't have the energy to be surprised any more by his natural look.

"Whew. I have to study now."

" Ok ok. I won't interfere with your studies. Go ahead and study. Do you think I can use your computer?"

You are asking for everything.

".....you can use it."

Jaemin yielded his desk with the computer on it. He opened a desk he used for meals then he opened his book. Jaemin started focusing on his studies so much that it was frightening.

After his parents passed away, the only family he had was his older sister. This studio and even the privilege of going to high school was through his older sister's sacrifice.

Even now she was working arduously in a factory. The only way he could pay her back was to study hard.

Jaemin was studying so fiercely that Woojin didn't dare to talk to him.

'Whoa. Even though he is handsome, he is studying really hard.'

Woojin turned on the computer, then he connected to a familiar portal site. He searched about the Dungeons. The internet was the best option to learn about the changes that had occurred on Earth in the past 5 years.

'Let's see. Dungeon Shock. August, 5th. Huh? I was summoned around that time.'

His summon to the Alphen Planet, and the Earth's subway stations turning in to Dungeons were too close to be called a coincidence. He couldn't exactly remember it, but his intuition was telling him it happened on the same day.

'It means there is a connection.'

Why was he summoned to the other side during the Dungeon Shock? He still didn't know the exact reasons. He just struggle hard to survive, and he longed to return home.

He felt a feeling of unsatisfaction.

'Roused. What is this? They are just people with super natural powers.'

He couldn't help, but be surprised when he looked up the Roused. The Roused were able to use specialized skills like teleportation, ignition ability, super speed and etc.

The Roused's specialized ability was important, but the ability to use the magical artifacts acquired from the Dungeons was more important.

If they could use the magical items, it meant they possessed magic. It wouldn't be wrong to look at them as magicians.

'The real-world has magicians.'

As a top Necromancer, he had advanced to received amazing bonus stats, but he was still genuinely surprised by this.

Since the characteristic of this dungeon was that it was underground, they couldn't use heavy firearms. Therefore, the Roused basically become the heroes of the entire Earth as they worked out of Seoul.

If left alone, the Dungeons were ticking time-bombs that could go off at any moment.

Moreover, the Dungeons went through changes.

They were classified into three different types, and the attack plan differed for each of them.

Dungeon – It literally was a timed dungeon. If a new one was created or a subway station changed into a dungeon, a one month countdown began.

If the Dungeon was cleared before the countdown ended, it turned into a Mine. If they failed, the Dungeon Break happened.

Mine – At first it was used as a figure of speech, but it had stuck so even the government called it that name. The conquered Dungeons only summoned the basic Monsters, and this was when the exploration happened. The basic Monsters carried some value, and sometimes they were able to find Artifacts.

These Mines reset after a certain amount of time. At most, it would reset after couple of month, and at the very least, it would last a couple of days. No one knew when the dungeons would be reset, so government employees were assigned to look over the dungeons.

Dungeon Break – It was a horrible event where the Dungeon attack has failed after the period of one month's time. As the word indicates, the dungeon bursts.

The barrier crumbles, and the monster within escapes to the outer world.

Woojin had entered the [Gwachun Station's 1st Exit], and it was a Mine. Moreover, the rank of the basic monsters was so low that Bloodstones weren't produced. The Drabbit itself also had no particular use. It became an abandoned Mine when it was decided it was of no value. Occasionally, it was used as a resting dungeon, where the beginner Roused trained. However, this happened very rarely.

Woojin looked up the Hammer Guild.

He wanted to find out the identity of the imposing building built where his home used to be. He was genuinely curious.

Jaemin's neck stiffened as he studied, so he straightened his neck. He looked at the monitor on a whim, and his eyes became round.

"Uh? Uncle knows about the Hammer Guild?"

"Huh? Hey, call me big brother. Do you know what goes on in this place?"

"Of course, I know. It is one of the 3 most successful guilds in Korea."

Jaemin's eyes sparkled as he gave an explanation. Hammer Guild, Hwarang Guild and KH Guild. These three were the most powerful guild in Korea.

"So they are companies?"

"Uh, mmm. It's a little bit different. It started off as gathering places for the Roused, but it is almost like a company now. No, should I say it is a big union between the Roused?"

He started tilting his head in confusion, and Jaemin started organizing his disorganized explanation.

"For the Roused, it is a union. For a normal person like me, it is a company. It is my dream company. You can't get in with ordinary qualifications.

Jaemin was studying hard as he made the three great guild in Korea his target. The benefits for the workers was amazing, and the annual income was quite large. If he's able to join the company, he'll be able to pay back the kindness shown by his struggling sister.

"Huh, is that right?"

Jaemin became starry eyed, and he let out a voice filled with desire. Woojin was unaccustomed to such looks, so he asked roughly.

"Anyways, won't those bastards from earlier in the day bother you tomorrow?"

Jaemin's countenance became dark when he thought about the tenacious personality of Lee-soohyuk. He had somehow gotten through today since Woojin had shown up. It seemed his school life will become tortuous starting tomorrow.

When he saw the other's face, Woojin spoke coolly.

"Hey. I have some business with the school, so let's go together tomorrow. I'll solve all your problems."

"T... together?"

Jaemin felt worried when he saw the confident Woojin.

Chapter 8 To Home (2)

"Huh. You were alive, Woojin."

His home room teacher from his 3rd year in high school looked as if he had seen a ghost. Woojin laughed bitterly. Numerous people had died during the Dungeon Shock, and it seemed Woojin was counted as one of the casualties.

In reality, it had been 20 years since they met again, so he didn't feel much emotions. The teacher looked for Woojin inside the student record.

"Ah. Here is your phone number."

Rrring.

The teacher immediately called the number. The number may or may not have changed.

Would he be able to hear his mother's voice? Had the number changed?

Woojin was sitting on the opposite sofa, and his heart was pounding.

[Hello?]

The home room teacher heard a tired middle-aged woman's voice. He used a special tone of voice reserved for speaking to a student's parents.

"Yes, hello. My name is Lee-sangwoo. I'm a teacher at Mido High school."

[What? Mido High school?]

The shaking voice seemed similar to the dimly remembered voice of his mother. Woojin's heart sped up, and it felt like he was out of breath.

"Yes. Are you by any chance Mrs. Lee-soogyung?"

[Yes. You are correct. What is it you need? If its Mido High school, then it was the school our eldest went to..."

Woojin felt like his heart was about to stop when he heard the voice across the phone. Even when he was hit squarely by Balrok's Whip, it didn't hurt as much as this.

Woojin snatched the hand phone as if he was stealing it, then he spoke in a shaking voice.

"Mom."

[.....]

There were no words spoken across the phone. However, one could tell how surprised she was. She must have been shaking so much, since her entire feelings was conveyed to him.

"Mom. This is Woojin. Kang-woojin."

It was harder to speak the word 'Mom', then using a 9th Circle magic spell. His throat was tied up in knots, and he was barely able to hold back his tears. Instead of hearing words from across the phone, he could only hear the sound of weeping.

[W... Woojin? Is it really our Woojin? Are you really our Woojin?]

At the sound of her wails, Woojin couldn't even guess how much sorrow she had endured. The sadness turned into joy as his tears fell.

"I've returned."

[Uhuh, uh-oong. My Woojin.]

He had survived 20 years for this moment.

"Where did you move to? I'll go there."

[No. I'll come over there. I'll be there soon, so don't move an inch from there.]

He heard the sounds of hurried feet. Woojin gave the teacher his phone.

"Whew."

He let out a long breath he had held as he tried to swallow his tears.

After the teacher received the phone from him, he tried to calm the mother. He ended the call only after a lengthy conversation. At this sight, Woojin was reminded he needed to buy a phone soon.

"She'll be here in about one or two hours."

"Whew. Thank you, teacher."

"Uh-whew. I didn't really do anything. I'm more thankful that you are alive."

"Do you miind if I look around the school?"

"Well, do what ever you want."

Woojin thought it would be boring to sit in one place for two hours, so he exited the staff room."

"Whew. Let's go see Jaemin."

When his mother arrives, he'll have to repay the money he borrowed from Jaemin in haste. He felt embarrassed to receive money from his parent when he was already 24 years old. However, he had decided to repay her back by dedicating his entire life to being a good son.

Just at that moment, kids crowded into the hallway since it was break time. He squeezed by people as he walked. He was boldly walking around wearing a white t-shirt and shorts one would only wear when going to sleep, so many students gave him a once over.

'Wa, he's really handsome.'

'He's really tall. I heard he is our school's alumni.'

If it wasn't for the other students in uniform, the female high school student would have exclaimed him to be their ideal type. They whispered among themselves, and they clapped their hands in delight.

'Wa. His fashion is so unsophisticated.'

'Shit. He's frighteningly thick. What did that bum used to do?'

The male students secretly made fun of Woojin.

Woojin ignored them, and he found Jaemin's classroom. Jaemin wasn't even able to go to the restroom during the break as kids surrounded him.

"Hey, Jaemin."

Woojin approached Jaemin in a friendly manner, and this surprised the gathering around him. Soo-hyuk and the other kids, who had suffered under Woojin, tried to avoid meeting his eyes. The other kids glared at Woojin, then they mocked him.

"Who is this bitch?"

"Wow. Were you afraid of becoming the outcast, so you called in your big brother?"

At most, there were seven of them. They looked at Woojin, and they grinned. Jaemin, who had a worried expression, met his eyes. Jaemin was slowly shaking his head from side-to-side when Woojin yelled.

"All of you playing as bullies follow me up to the roof."

With an obstinate expression, Woojin went in the front with the downcast Jaemin, and they headed towards the roof. The bullies followed after them with a dumbfounded expression on their faces.

"Wa. Let's give them a fucking beating. Hey, go call the kids in the other classes."

Soohyuk secretly followed after the kids as they headed towards the roof. There were over 20 kids following after them, so he tried to push yesterday's events out of his memory.

'That's right. I was careless, so I was hit in the vitals by mistake. That bastard probably can't do much against this number.'

Including Soohyuk, over twenty bullies stepped on to the roof.

"One."

A haughty voice came out of Woojin's mouth.

"We are!"

The bullies were lined up in a line, and they simultaneously lowered their body to the floor doing a push-up.

"Two."

"Jaemin's minions."

Twenty five students were in a line, and they were doing push-ups at the same time. Even Do-jaemin, who was directly involved, couldn't hide his surprise.

'What did he learn at the Jiri Mountain?'

He must have learned martial arts. If not, how could he defeat the twenty five large bullies in a flash by himself?

It really took less than 1 minute. He had already made them do 50 push-ups, yet the break hadn't ended yet. When the teens' arms started to tremble, Woojin gathered them in one place.

"Hey, everyone come over here."

The bullies' faces were considerably flushed, and Woojin grinned at this sight. He had held back since this was Earth. If it was Planet Alphen, then they wouldn't have been able to stand up.

He probably would have enslaved them after making their bodies Undead. Then he just need a little magic to damn their souls.

"What do you think this is?"

"It's a s... steel pipe."

"That's right. Whoever brought this is quite hopeless."

Some bastard had brought a steel pipe to beat Woojin with it. He grasped the steel pipe then he easily bent it. As if this wasn't enough, he grabbed both ends of the bent steel pipe, then he pulled.

Zzzzzt.

The steel pipe stretched like a stick of caramel. In a moment, it couldn't take the tension, so it was ripped in half. The bullies looked at him as if their soul had been ripped away, and Woojin threw the broken steel pipe to the floor.

Ggahng.

Woojin put an arm around Jaemin's shoulder, who was standing next to him.

"You won't bother Jaemin any more?"

"We won't bother him."

"We'll absolutely not bother him."

Woojin nodded his head as if he was satisfied with the shouts in front of him.

"Don't try to make him the outcast, and you guys should get along with him. All right?"

"Yes. Yes!"

"Then go back to class."

At Woojin's word, the bullies felt relieved that they were still alive. Then they bickered to be the first one to get off the roof. Jaemin looked at Woojin with a devastated expression.

"How am I suppose to go to school now..."

Rumors of such a large incident would be spread across the school. Woojin smile brightly as he looked at his sour expression.

"I thought you were only going to study? Now no one will torment you."

Huh? What is this? His argument was persuasive.

He was only going to study, so why should he care if he didn't have some friends?

Woojin patted Jaemin's shoulder, when he saw his flustered expression.

"Right. I was able to contact my mother. Soon I'll be able to repay the money you lent me."

"N... no. It's ok, big brother."

"It wouldn't be right."

Woojin was excited at the prospect of meeting his mother. Jaemin impatiently waited for the bell to ring, and he wanted to end the conversation with Woojin as quickly as possible.

"Ah, I'll repay your kindness. It couldn't have been easy to let a stranger sleep over for a night."

"Haha. No. Big brother helped me first. You even did so today."

He'll be embarrassed in the near future, but it wouldn't be too bad. It seemed as if the bullies wouldn't bother him any more.

They'll probably torment him with petty and cheap methods.

"Yes. I'm glad you think of it like that. If I buy a hand phone, I'll contact you. If those bastards bother you again, then you can call me."

Woojin took out the piece of paper from the pocket in his short, and he shook it.

'Ha, he didn't lose it.'

It was a fake number he had made up. He felt a bit guilty, so Jaemin laughed awkwardly.

"Yes, big brother. Congratulation on reuniting with your mother."

"Ha ha. Thanks. You should continue to study hard, and get a job in a great company."

When the bell rung, Jaemin knew this was his chance. He bowed to say goodbye, then he ran toward his classroom. Woojin remained on the roof as he just grinned.

"The weather is quite nice."

Maybe it was, because there were less cars. The sky above Seoul looked very clear today.

Woojin stood there for awhile, then he saw a taxi stop in front of the front gate. His heart felt like it was about to stop, when he saw the woman hurriedly head towards the school.

"Mom..."

Woojin calmed his heart, then he head towards the staff room.

Chapter 9 I'll Have To Make Some Money

"Woojin. It really is our Woojin. It really is Woojin."

His mother grabbed on to him, then she cried for a long time. She had thought he had died, yet Woojin had come back alive after 5 years. She couldn't tell if this was a dream or reality.

"Where have you been?"

"It'll be too long to explain it here. Anyways, where's the other family members? I went back home, and it was gone."

"Sooah is at her preschool. You father..."

His mother started to speak, but she started to to cry again. He felt something was amiss, so his pounding heart turned cold.

"Let's go. Let's go home and talk."

"Yes. Let's do that. Let's go home."

As if his mother would disappear, Woojin held both her hands tightly as they left the staff room. While they rode the bus, his mother spoke despondently about their situation.

His father had been caught up in the Dungeon Shock as he left for work. As with the other tens of thousands of people riding the subway, he had passed away. They couldn't even find his corpse. His mother had lived on alone as she took care of Sooah.

After losing the head of the household, her son was also missing. The only reason why his mother was able to withstand everything was because of young Sooah. They hadn't been very wealthy in the past, and his mother had to take care of the whole household by herself. He could feel the difficulties she had gone through.

The only asset they had was the apartment, but the price became dirt cheap after the Dungeon Shock. Moreover, his mother wasn't qualified for many of the jobs, since she had only been a housewife.

To make matters worse, Sooah became ill, so the household's wealth decreased rapidly. It was a situation where everyday was painful. She had struggled to hold on for the past 5 years.

"It's fine since you are alive. Don' worry too much about it. I thought you had taken the subway."

His mother was thankful just from the fact that he was alive.

The bus traveled for an hour before they approached the neighborhood where he used to live. They moved towards a block away from the Hammer Guild's headquarters, and they arrived at a run down neighborhood.

"Just in case you or your father might come back we moved to a close location."

If one disappeared during the Dungeon Shock, it basically meant the person was dead. However, his mother hadn't lost hope. Her son had returned after 5 years, so she felt rewarded by her efforts.

His mother lead him through winding alleyways, then she headed toward a specific shack. It was a very small one room, and it was smaller than Jaemin's house. Moreover, there were a lot of luggage stacked inside, so it made the room look smaller.

"Stay right here. I'll go to the preschool, and I'll bring Sooah back."

His mother left Woojin by himself inside the room, and she left the house. Woojin looked around the small room filled with boxes, then he opened one of them.

"Ah..."

The box held none other than his old belongings. He opened the other boxes, and it was all the same. It contained his father's clothes and his clothes. There were even toys he had played with when he was little.

She had kept all the belongings they had possessed when they lived in the apartment 5 years ago. She had forced it all inside this one room, so it wasn't inevitable for the

house to become cramped. He could guess the reason why his mother couldn't throw away their belongings, and his heart felt like it was going to break.

Soon, his mother returned home with Sooah holding her hand. Her wide eyed face looked up at Woojin. Her complexion looked pale, but her white skin just made her look cuter.

The 2 year old baby he remembered in his memories had turned into a 7 year old cute child.

"Sooah. This is your big brother. Greet him."

"Big brother?"

Sooah grabbed on to the hem of her mother's clothes, then she warily looked over Woojin. Woojin made his most friendly smile as he looked down towards Sooah.

"Sooah. Could you play with your big brother for a moment? Mother will make delicious food soon."

"Huh? Mommy doesn't have to go to the restaurant?"

"Of course. It's my day off today."

It was only lunch, but his mother worked as if she was in a hurry. She prepared a sumptuous feast. Sooah became unusually animated when she saw the meat side dish. It seemed like she wasn't able to eat meat on a regular basis.

His mother looked at him with contentment, so as to repay her, he ate the food with relish. After he emptied three bowls of rice, he stopped his spoon.

It was said the act of eating food was a good way to lower the wariness in humans.

Sooah seemed to have immediately adjusted to him. She called him 'big brother' easily, and she stuck to Woonjin's side. It was false to say she wasn't wary, but it seemed she was starved for attention. It made Woojin's heart hurt when he saw this.

"Then Sooah plays by herself after coming home from preschool?"

"Yes. Mommy goes through a lot of troubles. I have to behave, and play by myself."

He was proud of what the 7 year old said, so Woojin patted her head.

"Jeez. You have to brush Mimi's head instead of mine."

"Ah. Ok."

Sooah passed him her barbie named Mimi, then he brushed its hair with a brush as big as his finger. Woojin and Sooah played with the doll, and his mother's gaze was on them as she washed the dishes.

She had struggled so much in the past 5 years that it felt like she had become an old lady.

His mother, who was doing the dishes, picked up the phone when it rang. Then she hurried into the restroom to answer the phone.

[What's going on? Where did you go during the busy hours? Come back immediately.]

"Today is a really important day. May I take a leave?"

[Hey lady, what do you think this is? There is no taking leaves at this small restaurant. You even got out of work regularly by giving excuses that your daughter was sick. If you don't want to get fired, come in right now!]

Woojin's senses were several times more sensitive compared to normal people, so it wasn't hard for him to hear the whispered conversation. Woojin roughly figured out the situation, and Woojin felt a heavy feeling. It felt as if a rock was pressing down on his chest.

His mother exited the restroom, then she quickly finished washing the dishes. Then she spoke to Woojin and Sooah with an apologetic face.

"Sooah. I'm sorry, but can you play a little bit with your big brother?"

"Mmm. It's ok. I'll play with big brother."

Even though she didn't have any old memories of him, Sooah was already following after her big brother, and this made her very cute.

"I'm so sorry about this, Woojin."

Woojin gave an ample laugh.

"It's ok. Have a safe trip."

"Yes. I'll be back soon."

After his mother went out, Sooah let out the tears she had been holding back.

"She's always busy. Sooah is always alone."

Woojin's eyes turned round when he saw her crying figure.

"No. Big brother is here now."

"Cheh, I've never seen you, so how can you be my big brother?"

"Huh huh. I'm really your big brother. Don't you remember me from when you were young? I even changed your diapers."

"Sooah don't wee any more!"

Woojin tried to appease the grumbling Sooah, so he played with her. He had assumed his mother would return around dinner time, but she wasn't back yet. Therefore, Woojin started cooking.

Woojin was used to sleeping out in the open when he was at the Planet Alphen. When he opened the refrigerator, there were several ingredients leftover from his mother's previous shopping trip.

Woojin simply fried an egg, then he shared vegetable fried rice with Sooah. His mother returned around 9 o'clock.

"I'm sorry. Mother is late. What did you eat for dinner? We'll have to buy you a hand phone tomorrow."

His mother couldn't contact Woojin, so she must have felt frustrated.

They laid down their bedding in the small one room, and he didn't even have space to roll over. Sooah had already fallen asleep in his mother's arms, but Woojin and his mother had a hard time going to sleep.

"I'm very glad you are back."

His mother had already said those words multiple times as she laid down her tired body. Woojin couldn't sleep that night, and he stayed up with his eyes wide open.

'This isn't it.'

Woojin felt a suffocating feeling as if he was buried within a fallen building.

The next morning everyone woke up in a flurry. Sooah had to attend preschool, and his mother prepared to go to work.

"Woojin-ah. Go to the borough office, and get your SSN reissued. After I get off work, we'll go shop for a hand phone. Don't go anywhere. If you are hungry then make and eat some ramen. No, if you are hungry, come to the restaurant located in the front. It is the Seungmi Restaurant located in front of the mart."

"Yes. Don't worry about me. I'll see you later."

When everyone left, Woojin was alone, so his mood dampened.

He had a lot of things to do.

He had to cancel the missing persons report, then he had to be reissued a SSN at the borough office.

He was summoned during his 3rd year of high school, so he hadn't even graduated. He didn't want to be unemployed, so he also had to get a job.

'I have to make some money.'

He felt pity for his busy mother, and Sooah who had to spend everyday by herself. He was the man of the house now. He had to become the pillar of this household.

'I have to make a lot of money.'

He'll have to study again. Moreover, he'll have to immediately get a temporary job. Woojin quickly thought of a way to make a lot of money.

It felt like destiny.

No, it felt like a devil's claw drawing him in.

'Roused.'

Woojin looked at the three crumpled bills of 10,000 won, and he came to a decision. He opened the box with his carefully stored clothes. He wore his own clothes, then he exited the house.

He had received his SSN, and he had cancelled his mission persons report. He opened an account in his name at the bank, then he went into a phone store to purchase a hand phone.

"This is our hottest item, dear customer. It is very sturdy, so it is a model used by many famous Roused."

At the phone salesman's recommendation, he purchased the hand phone. He entered in his mother's phone number, then he sent a message.

'There is a little brother that I know living close to our house. I'll stay there for now, and I'll prepare for the school qualification examination.'(TLN:basically a Korea GED)

His mother immediately called him when Woojin sent the message. He had to talk with her for a very long time to assuage her fears. She knew their financial situation wouldn't allow him to study, so in the end, she agreed to his proposal.

"Whew. I feel bad about it, but I'll make it up later."

Jaemin's house wasn't very far off from Woojin's house. It was a distance he could walk to. He had decided it was the ideal place to stay until he bought a bigger house.

Woojin unfurled the folded paper, then he input Jaemin's number. He pressed the call button, and the ring back tone rang. Soon, a person picked up the phone.

[Hello. This is the Dongjin Agency's Park-hweeso.]

He heard a husky voice. He checked to see if he made an error in pressing the numbers. However, it matched the phone number on the paper.

[Hello. If you made a call, then please speak.]

"Is this Jaemin?"

[No.]

Click-

Accompanying an annoyed voice, the phone call was terminated. Woojin clicked his tongue as he looked at his phone.

"Ha. What is this? Did he trick me?"

Woojin pressed firmly on his temple.

Chapter 10 To the Dungeon

Woojin grinned as he looked at his phone.

"This is great."

He purposefully gave him a fake phone number...

Since he already knew where he lived, Woojin wasn't worried about meeting him again. He had been wondering how to ask Jaemin if he could stay over for a couple days. However, it seemed like he could be a little shameless now.

He had earned a great excuse.

Woojin walked lightly towards Jaemin's rented room.



"Whew."

Do-jaemin let out a sigh as he saw the kids slowly look away from his gaze. It was great that the bullies didn't bother him anymore, but now his other normal classmates avoided him, except one person.

He was eating lunch by himself on a 6-man table when someone put a tray in front of him.

"Hey, I heard your big brother beat up all the bullies. Is it true?"

Jaemin sighed when Lee-soolgi asked her question. He admitted Soolgi was pretty even to him. However, he had to focus on studying. If he started dating someone, then it would be a betrayal towards his hard-working sister.

"Let's just eat."

"Hehe. Is it true he is your older cousin?"

He guessed weird rumors were going around. Before Jaemin could explain the situation, Soolgi laughed lightly.

"Heh heh. I thought you were just handsome, but you also have some backing. Leesoohyuk won't bother us again."

His guilt toward his sister wasn't the only reason why he tried to distance himself from Soolgi. Everyone in the school knew Lee-soohyuk, the bully, had a crush on Soolgi.

However, Soolgi didn't even look at Soohyuk. She only hung around the handsome Jaemin, so of course, Soohyuk wouldn't look kindly at Jaemin.

Jaemin had put up a steel wall towards Soolgi, so he could act tactful in front of Soohyuk.

'I don't need to act tactful any more.'

Woojin wasn't really his older cousin, but even if that rumor spread, it wasn't a bad thing. The bullies won't be able to do anything to him.

Jaemin decided to look at the positives. He didn't have to walk on eggshells any more.

"Do you like me?"

Jaemin looked at her with a dumbfounded expression when she asked her straightforward question. Why was this girl so aggressive?

Soolgi's smooth brows furrowed, then she pouted.

"What? Am I not pretty?"

Of course, you are pretty. However, he couldn't boldly say it with his mouth.

"Eh-he. Let's just eat."

Study over dating. It wasn't too late for him to date after he got a job. After the lunch period ended, Soolgi bothered him for a long time. Jaemin broke free from her, then he headed toward his tutoring school.

Rrring.

"Uh, big sister."

His sister, Do-jiwon, always called him around the time he headed toward his tutoring school.

[Is everything ok?]

"Nothing much. Oh yeah. I met a strange big brother yesterday. He said he was 5 years my senior, and he was an alumni of my school. Do you know him? He said his name was Kang-woojin."

His sister was also an alumni of Mido High school. Now that he thought about it, his sister was 5 years his senior, so she should have been in the same grade as Woojin.

[Huh? Woojin? He was a kid who suddenly went missing before the Dungeon Shock......]

Jiwon remembered Woojin. However, she knew of his existence only because the entire school had known he had gone missing. During her school days, it wasn't as if she was close to him.

"Uh, you know about him, big sister. I'll give you a more through explanation when you come home this weekend. That big brother helped me out a little bit..."

[Ok, Jaemin. Sister's break time is over. Study hard.]

During her 3rd year in high school, his big sister was already busy working at the factory.

His big sister was the reason why he could go to school without worrying about his living expenses. Jaemin was also able attend a tutoring school. His sister, who was 5 years older, was both his mother and father.

She was the driving force fueling him to study hard.

"Oh yeah. He said he would give me my money back, but he just went away..."

Jaemin grinned before he knew it when he thought about Woojin.

He seemed to be crazy person, but he also didn't seem like a bad person. He was really scary when he was beating up the bullies, but he had been nice to Jaemin.

Woojin's beating of the bullies was well worth the 7300 won. From the beginning, he didn't plan on taking back the money. However, Woojin had promised numerous times that he would repay him yet he had left without doing so. This thought made him laugh.

Ddi-dik, Ddi-rori.

After the tutoring school had ended, Jaemin dragged his tired body home when his eyes became round.

"Uh?"

He saw shoes he had never seen before. Moreover, that person was lying on his bed eating a tangerine.

"You are back, Jaemin?"

"B... big brother. How did you know my secret pass-code?"

"I saw it last time when you pressed it."

"This... this is trespassing."

"Ah, I tried to call you, but someone else answered the phone."

"That ... that is."

As if he felt guilty, Jaemin stuttered when he spoke.

He really thought he would be extorted and put in a bad situation, so he had given him a fake number...

"Bitch. Do you think I'll hit you? Just come over here. I have something I have to ask you."

Jaemin was nervous, so he sat rigidly. It was a strange scene where it looked like the ownership of the house had been switched. Woojin popped a peeled tangerine in his

mouth as he asked a question.

"You said the Roused make a lot of money?"

"Th... that's true."

"I read there were guilds, associations and a lot of things like affiliations. I've also read some Dungeons were disclosed to the public, and it was monopolized. Explain it to me."

It was such an out-of-the-blue question that Jaemin tilted his head in confusion.

"Why are you asking about that all of a sudden?"

"I want to attack the dungeon."

"Big brother is one of the Roused?"

Jaemin asked in surprised, then he kicked himself. Woojin had defeated over twenty bullies in a flash. If he wasn't a Roused, his god-like movement couldn't be explained.

He believed him like an idiot. He thought he had learned martial arts on the Jiri Mountain.

"I just need some money. Tell me what you know."

"If you want to enter a private dungeon, you have to register yourself with the Association as a Roused."

Originally, Jaemin already had a lot of interest in the Roused and the Guilds. No, it could be said every male around his age was interested in this topic.

Woojin quietly heard his zealous explanation, while he peeled another tangerine.

"So I just have to register myself as a Roused, then I can make the most money by attacking the Dungeon by myself?"

At Woojin's words, Jaemin hit his chest as if he was frustrated. Did he even listen to his explanation?

"That is how the rate is calculated. However, it is too dangerous, so it would be best if one joins a Guild. If not, you could get a job at the Association or government bureau."

"I hear you have to take an entrance exam for a Guild? I don't have time to wait for the result. Doesn't the Associations, and government bureaus all work on monthly salaries? I can't wait for a month."

Jaemin shook his head.

"Then, at the very least, you have to form a party. Dungeons are a really dangerous place. Oh yeah. You said you bought a cell phone? Be sure to download this app."

"App?"

Woojin wasn't familiar with smart phones, so Jaemin downloaded the app in his stead.

"I'll do it for you. Uh? This is Gallery1. Wow, people still use this. Did one of your family member use this?"

"Is... isn't that the newest model?"

"What? Maybe if it was 4 years ago. Did you perhaps buy it as a new item?"

At Jaemin's reaction, Woojin knew he had been duped.

'That mother fucking phone salesman.'

He conned the ultimate necromancer. If this was Planet Alphen, such an event was unthinkable.

"Ah, this is so slow. Anyways, this is the Dungeon Forum. Originally, this was the subway info app. However, the Roused Association purchased it, and they remade it. Now it is a comprehensive portal app that deals with everything related to the Dungeons."

Jaemin prattled on as he dumped out all the info he had. As he had said, the Dungeon Forum was a comprehensive app.

It had a section for hiring members to attack Dungeons. It also had a function where one could search for Dungeon in its attack time period. It also warned people of a

dangerous Dungeon where a Dungeon Break will occur soon.

"Once you register as a Roused with the Association, you will log in with your Roused ID. It'll even give you a record on who failed during mid-dungeon attack."

"Hmm."

Woojin fiddled with the app to learn how to use it.

"Anyways, I just need to search for a Dungeon in mid-attack, then I can challenge it?"

"I heard it is safe to go to a captured Mine."

It displayed information about the captured Dungeon Mines. It gave the location of the most important item, the Return Stone. It also listed which monster appeared and it was much easier to form a party. It was considered to be comparatively safe.

The problem was he had to give a fixed amount of loot he found in the dungeon to the Guild or Roused, who first successfully captured the Dungeon. He also had to give a fixed service charge to the Association, and another commission to the first person who captured the Dungeon.

Since Woojin hadn't recovered his previous power, he thought it was a good choice to enter a captured Dungeon with an exploration term. The problem was coming up with the entrance fee he had to pay when he entered the Mine for the first time. It was a burdensome sum for the current Woojin.

Since one had had to risk one's life during a Dungeon Attack, everything was free. The Mine was a gold mine where one could get items, monster's corpses and blood stones. Therefore, it required an incredible amount of commissions, and entrance fees.

"So a dungeon where I could make a fair amount of money has an entrance fees that is over 100,000 won?"

"T... that's correct."

There were numerous Dungeons with higher fees, but there were no Dungeons below it. The free Dungeons were abandoned Mines like the Gwachun Station's 1st exit, where one couldn't make any money.

Woojin thought about it. He could challenge a Dungeon in mid-capture to get a sizable windfall, or he could aim for a safe captured Mine with less profit.

He agonized over the decision, but his answer was decided. The thought of his family prevented him from doing a reckless challenge. He wasn't some apostle of justice. He had no reason to put his life on the line to clear a Dungeon in mid-capture.

Moreover, he couldn't return to his mother to ask for the entrance fee......

"Let me borrow some money."

"…"

At the bold Woojin's words, Jaemin felt like he had fallen into a trap he couldn't escape from.

Chapter 11 Roused Registration (1)

Woojin got off the bus, then he took out his phone to launch the map app. While it was loading, he saw a round bar rotating forever. He wondered how he should get rid of that damn phone salesman.

After 30 seconds had passed, the map finally showed up. Woojin used the navigation function to head toward his destination. After searching for the destination, he had to wait a long minute before it started to give him directions.

[Roused General Affairs Bureau]

Woojin came to the General Affairs Bureau to register himself as a Roused. At the reception desk, Woojin wrote down his basic biological data and his ability. He took a receipt number, and after a brief time, he headed towards the examination room.

The examination room had cameras everywhere, and two Roused from the Bureau was stationed there in case of any unforeseen event. Also, there was a public official sitting there to process the test results.

Oh-joonhwan, who had returned to the General Affairs Bureau, looked over Kangwoojin's file.

"You have a summoning ability? Could you show it to me?"

Woojin answered his very businesslike questions.

"Right here?"

Woojin stood there blankly, so Joonhwan moved his gaze towards his monitor.

'Uh? Have I met him before?'

It had been only four days since he had since his face, but Woojin's outfit differed too much from his current outfit. Oh-joonhwan couldn't recognize him.

"I need a vector."

"Ah, you have a mass summoning ability. What kind of vector do you need?"

"Give me one corpse."

"What?"

Of course, Joonhwan and the two Roused from the Bureau was taken aback. Woojin smirked as he added more words afterwards.

"I'm not talking about a human corpse. It could be a monster or even a dead animal. It needs to have bones. Ah, of course, human corpses are fine too."

"I... I understand."

Even though Joonhwan was taken aback, he called the Support Division. Soon, the Support Division brought a corpse of a bunny, which had been killed during an experiment.

He spread his hand towards the corpse placed in the middle of the examination room.

"Wake up."

Pah-pak!

The bunny's corpse exploded, and a Skeleton Soldier suddenly surged up.

"Kee-kee-keek."

Joonhwan gulped as the Skeleton Soldier's producing a bizarre sound. He had seen all types of weird Roused abilities, but this scene was a new one.

However, Joonhwan was only a rank 9, so it was his first time seeing this. However, it wasn't as if there weren't any Roused with such abilities.

"You... you are a Necromancer."

The Roused were given various titles based on their abilities like Magician, Warrior or Priest. Of course, there were Necromancers, who controlled the Undead. There were

even some famous people amongst the Necromancers.

"As you can see."

"Summoner's ability is given a Roused rank based on their summoned being's battle ability. Why don't you try attacking that?"

In the middle of the examination room, a hologram appeared, so Woojin looked around the examination room anew. There were numerous equipment installed around the domed examination room, and it was projecting the hologram.

"Think of it as a simulated battle. I just want to see your summoned being's movement."

The hologram was kobold, and it had a small body. It was a monster as common as the Drabbit, but they were harder to hunt since they like to group together. Moreover, they behaved like a swarm.

"Kee-keek."

The Skeleton Soldier moved according to his will, and it started to fight the Kobold. It didn't have a real body, so his bone knife passed right through it. However, the machines installed around the surrounding picked up all the movements as it took measurements.

After five minutes had passed, Joohwan told him to stop.

"Do you have any other abilities?"

"Well, I don't have any other notable abilities."

Yet.

"Hmmm, Wait a moment. Could you follow me?"

Joonhwan directed him to a break room. He said he'll only take a moment, but Joonhwan took an hour before he came back with a black card. It looked like a high quality credit card, but it had his picture imprinted on it like his ID.

"This is your Roused registration card. It can be used as an ID and a debit card."

The card simply had his personal profile, and there was a rank F written on it.

"Is Rank F really that low?"

"Mmm. It can't be considered high. No, it it is the lowest. Summoner's battle abilities are weaker than expected..."

Of course. He hadn't put his points into the lvl 1 Skeleton Soldiers. They could only exert half the strength of an adult.

"Mmm. Well, if one's rank is too low, is there a restriction on which Dungeons you can enter?"

"There is no such thing. However, the party is distributed based on your rank when you are forming a party."

That wasn't a problem. He didn't want to form a party. He planned on using the Dungeon by himself. Woojin could sever a steel bar with his bare hands, and he could simultaneously move 14 of his summoned beings. Therefore, he didn't make a fuss out of it.

"Excuse me. Have I seen you somewhere?"

At Oh-joonhwan's question, Woojin tilted his head in confusion. He didn't try hard to comb over his old memories. No, he thought it wasn't worth it.

"This is the first time. Have a nice day."

Woojin immediately left the Bureau, and Joonhwan scratched the back of his head.

"Ah, I know I've seen him somewhere....."

Still, he kept having an uncomfortable feeling. He was able to find the source of the discomfort only when Joohwan returned to his seat.

"Ah! He was that guy from before. Gwachun Station's 1st Exit."

On the first day he returned from his temp job, Joonhwan had been berated by his superior. The reason being he hadn't been vigilant in controlling the access to the Dungeon. Joonhwan searched through his drawer, and he took out the access record

to the Gwachun Station's 1st Exit.

[Name: Kang-woojin, Affiliation: Planet Earth, Roused Number: 12345]

When he saw the cheeky answer on the record again, his fists shook again.

"He's a rank F and not a high rank? Moreover, he is a noob, who just registered today. Jeez."

Joonhwan was berated by his superior, because of this bastard, and he had been in a huff for a while.

"Uh? He is only Rank F yet how did he clear it by himself?"

The Gwachun Station's 1st Exit had Drabbits. They didn't drop any Bloodstones, but it wasn't a dungeon where a F rank could clear it on his own.

"Jeez."

Joonhwan tilted his head, then he threw the file on the desk. He won't see him again, so why should he care?

After leaving the Bureau, Woojin took out his smart phone then he opened the Dungeon Forum. He almost exploded from frustration when the loading screen took a while before the app started running.

As he had learned from Jaemin, he set the search option to the entrance fee of 10,000 won. Then he selected a monster rank that was 2 ranks below his summoned monsters.

"This is the closest one."

Woojin checked for a bus line that goes to the [Shinrim Station's 7th Exit Dungeon], then he waited at the bus station.

"Man, this app is quite convenient..."

In the past 5 years, the Dungeons born from the train stations weren't the only thing

new. In the past, only few people had smart phones, but everyone had one now.

Moreover, there were a lot of convenient apps that were helpful in real life.

As he got closer to the Shinrim Station, the buildings' height became lower, and the surrounding became desolate. The area around the station wasn't thriving with buildings. There were occasional vacant lots at the intersections, and he saw a really big parking lot.

"It looks like the Dungeon Break happened here at least once."

If not, he had no explanation as to why the perfectly fine buildings were shuttered. There wouldn't be any empty lots present.

When he previously headed toward the 1st Exit, there were army troops already deployed there. His current destination, the 7th exit, had a crowd of people in front of it.

Woojin had come here after reading a famous blog. It seemed many netizens had rushed over here. He shook his head when he saw the long line.

"I hadn't thought about this."

The low entrance fee, and the 2 rank below monsters meant the risk was small, but the competition to make money at the Mine was fierce.

Woojin had no choice, but to get in line. Everyone was gathered in small groups, so it seemed like they were working together.

This was when a man with sharp features spoke to him from further in front of the line.

Chapter 12 Roused Registration (2)

"Hey, bro. You look to be alone, so why don't you join our party? We've gather exactly 7 people here, so there is one spot left."

"Ah, it's ok. I'll enter alone."

The man was taken aback by Woojin's refusal.

"Why would you want to waste your entrance fee by entering by yourself? Since there is a time limit, there is a limit on how many Bloodstones you can mine."

The man laughed when he saw Woojin's confused expression.

"I guess you haven't been a Miner for long."

The Roused were called by a slang. The people, who specialized in challenging the unconquered Dungeons, were called Rangers. Those, who mined the Bloodstones, in the safe and conquered Dungeons were called Miners. The Roused, who were mobilized to fight the monsters with the military during the Dungeon Break, were called Guardians.

They were called these names based on their occupation. However, a Ranger could become a Miner, and a Miner could become a Guardian.

As if the man thought Woojin was a noob, he started going over the rules for a Miner in broad terms.

There was a cap on how many people could enter the Dungeon.

When Rangers decide to attack a Dungeon, they make their teams based on the headcount. These people were called the Attack Squads. The 3 great Guilds of Korea were famous for having competent Attack Squads.

It was the same for the Miners.

Miners could only be admitted up to the maximum number. The Attack Squads sent in the maximum number of people to send in the best fighting powe, and the Miners did it to increase their efficiency.

The entrance fee was also calculated based on the maximum number of people able to enter the Dungeon.

The maximum number of people able to enter the Shinrim Station's 7th Exit was 8 people.

"So, if I want to use it alone then I'll have to pay the fee of 8 people? 800,000 won?"

"Yes. Moreover, it is an hourly fee."

Even though only the basic monsters were summoned in the Dungeon, it was still dangerous. The information about the Dungeon had already been released to the public, so the danger to a Miner's life was lessened. However, they were still putting their life on the line.

The Return Stones could only be found in the deepest part of most Dungeons. It was impossible for one person to clear it in one hour. If one went over the time limit, the entrance fee doubled.

'If I want to use the Dungeon for 2 hours alone, then I need an entrance fee of 1,600,000 won.'

If he took out all the Monsters, then he'll probably make decent money. However, a Roused with that much ability, wouldn't even enter a mere 2 star Dungeon.

"What is your rank?"

"It's rank F."

"Tsk tsk. You came here without knowing anything, but you are in luck. Join our party as a learning experience. We'll guarantee your safety."

"Hmmm. All right."

Woojin was able to take care of his own safety, but he joined the party without any fuss. It was purely based on the fact that he didn't have the entrance fee.

'I'll have to level up fast, so I can attack a Dungeon in peace."

There were too many constraints and fees. It seemed Woojin's temperament was incompatible with Mining. He was disappointed, but he decided to experience Mining for a day with these people.

Groups of eight members were entering the Dungeon, so the waiting line grew shorter pretty fast. They were all Roused, but they all held low ranks. The people gathered here were quite diverse.

The difficulty level wasn't very high, so the parties in front of them were all able to clear the Dungeon in $40\sim50$ minutes.

The man, who introduced himself as Bae-dohsoo, was a Rank E user. He was a professional professional miner, who traveled with 6 team mates to gain profits from the Mines.

Usually, they only visited 1 star Mines, but they decided to attempt a 2 star mine this time around. Since this will be their first attempt, they wanted to fill the 8 slots.

Eight people were better than six people.

Kang-woojin and a Roused named Hong-sunggoo had come to the Dungeon by themselves, so they joined Bae-dohsoo's team. Hong-sunggoo was a new Roused and he was Rank F like Woojin.

"Well, everyone except me is Rank F. Therefore, my share will be 2, and everyone else will be 1. We'll gather all the Bloodstones, then we'll divide into 9 portion at the end."

Woojin didn't have much to say. He agreed to Bae-dohsoo's words. He was challenging a Mine just to have the experience.

"Whew, I'm shaking. How about you?"

From the start, Hong-sunggoo had a hard time getting along with Bae-dohsoo's group, so he tried to act friendly towards Woojin, while they waited in line. Woojin replied back in a sufficient manner, so they talked about various topics.

Hong-sunggoo was a rank F noob, but he was very interested in the Dungeons. He possessed a vast array of knowledge. Woojin's conversation with him was quite

beneficial.

Hong-sunggoo was 21 years old, and he had become a Roused only two months ago. He had quit going to school, and he had started his Roused activity in earnest. He had been going to 1 star Mines for the past two month, and he felt he had gotten used to the Mines. This was the first time he was attempting a 2 star mine.

Money wasn't his ultimate goal. His goal was to strengthen and train his Roused abilities. His dream was to join a Ranger's team to attempt an unconquered Dungeon. He wanted to join the Attack Squad.

"Even if one is afraid, men aren't suppose to show it."

"Haha. Big brother is quite confident."

The queue time lasted several hours, so they talked a lot. Eventually, they decided to call each other big bro and little bro.

"Ok ok. Let's start getting ready to enter."

The barrier around the Dungeon let out a green light, and it started to fade. Woojin tilted head in curiosity as he saw the team in front of him exit.

"Huh? It seems there was an accident."

As the experienced Bae-dohsoo had predicted, the team in front of them had 4 casualties. The public employees and officials dispatched from the Dungeon Management Agency ran towards them to investigate the situation.

They were waiting right behind them, so Woojin was able to hear their words clearly.

"A Hobgoblin showed up! How is that possible?"

The dispatched public employee showed Entrance Log to the argumentative Roused.

"Didn't you read this? You even signed here."

[The basic monsters summoned inside the Dungeon may vary from information given.]

[The burden of responsibility regarding this is placed on the Roused.]

...

The 4 surviving Rosued, who had lost their team, was very animated, but they had no way of receiving a compensation. Being a Miner wasn't a safe job.

"Tsk tsk. It is useless to argue like that. They are just wasting their energy."

It seemed they had left their party member's corpses behind, and they were only able to run away after securing the Return Stone. Since they weren't able to secure any Bloodstones, they had only incurred losses in this Dungeon.

As expected of a veteran Miner, Bae-dohsoo had experienced a lot of these situations. Bae-dohsoo looked away from the argument, then he spoke to his teammates.

"Hobgoblins are 2 star monsters. If we are well prepared, there is no reason why we wouldn't be able to fight against it. No, those bastards most definitely drop Bloodstones, so it should be better for us."

According to Bae-dohsoo's words, he had never hunted a Hobgoblin before, but he had the experience of clearing over 200 instances of 1 star Mine.

The eight party members briefly signed their names in the Dungeon Entrance Log then they started heading down the subway station's stairway.

"Ok ok. Let's enter."

After Bae-dohsoo's encouragement, they descended the stairs and they approached a tunnel. A white barrier started forming when they entered.

[You have enter the Shinrim Station's 7th Exit.]

[This Dungeon has already been conquered. Basic monsters will be summoned.]

Chapter 13 Shinrim Stations 7th Exit

Woojin discreetly asked Sunggoo a question.

"Hey, do you hear that sound?"

"Yes? What kind of sound? The sound of the wind?"

"Yes. The wind is blowing pretty hard."

He guessed only he could hear it.

Woojin was closely related to the Dungeons and the Alphen Planet. So he realized this was limited only to him.

"Ok. Let's get into position."

At Bae-dohsoo's words, 4 team members stepped forward. The four of them were all short ranged fighters, so they carried some pretty sturdy shields. Bae-dohsoo and the other teammates positioned themselves behind the four.

Bae-dohsoo was a Roused with an Ignition ability, and the other person had a bow.

Basically, the formation was a combination of 4 short ranged fighters, and two long ranged fighters.

"Well, the two of you are new to this, so please position yourselves in the rear. Let's try to be in sync. If we turn upcoming corner, 4 normal goblins will be summoned."

This was the first time Bae-dohsoo attempted a 2 star Dungeon, but it seemed he had studied this place thoroughly. He knew this place like the content of a manual.

"Keek?"

When they turned the corner, four goblins rushed towards them. Goblins were small

monsters with hideous faces, and they swung short clubs.

Tahng, Tahng.

The clubs were blocked by the shields, so it didn't do much damage. This was when Bae-dohsoo's Ignition ability shone.

Hwaroo-rook.

The flame suddenly sparked in front of their faces. The goblins lost their sight, and they became disorganized. At that moment, the closed combat fighters raised their weapons, then they stepped forward.

Ssssskuk, puk!

They mercilessly cut down the fallen goblins with their weapons. One goblin tried to run away when an arrow appeared like a ghost. It flew and embedded itself in the goblin's head.

Ssweeeeehk.

It wasn't shot like an Olympic archer, but the archer was still a member of the Roused even if he was Rank F. It was an attack that would sufficiently threaten a monster.

They cut off the head of the goblin, who had become a bloody mess. Woojin and Sunggoo watched silently from the side.

Woojin had seen more gruesome sights, so it didn't bother him. Hong-sunggoo was also experienced from the 1 star Dungeons, so he just frowned. He didn't disgrace himself by doing something like dry heaving.

"We are lucky. There are two blood stones. If it's only this size, then we'll at least be able to receive 20."

Woojin was surprised at Bae-dosoo's words. The blood stones were smaller than the size of a finge yet they were valued at 20. He thought he had done the right thing to come to this Dungeon even though he was risking his life.

'I guess 100,000 won isn't too expensive.'

Until a moment ago, it was a burdensome amount of money, but now it was laughable.

"Ok. Let's fight together at the next corner. What's your ability again?"

"I can summon a fire ball. After I throw one, I can throw another one after 3 seconds. I can throw 6 in succession."

"Ok. How about you?"

Bae-dohsoo's gaze touched Woojin. Woojin looked around his surrounding then he raised his hand towards a goblin's corpse.

Puh-uk.

"Kekekeek."

A single Skeleton Soldier showed up. Everyone was surprised, so they looked towards Woojin once again.

"Huh huh. You are a summoner type. Well, do you have another ability?"

Woojin picked up the club dropped by a goblin, then he started swinging it through the air.

"Well, I have enough power to keep myself safe."

The party was too busy looking at the Skeleton Soldier.

"This is the first time I've seen a Necromancer."

"Whoa. This is amazing."

"I think it'll be great for searching or reconnaissance?"

While everyone was admiring it, Bae-dohsoo decided on the positions.

"We'll keep the same positions, but Woojin's summoned being can act as a scout. Mr. Honggoo will let a fire ball fly when I give him a signal."

Woojin, while carefully turning the corner, opened his Skill Window. Then he

increased the summoned Skeleton Soldier's Skill. <Lv 9 Skeleton Soldier Summon> The monster's corpse was given as sacrifice, and a Skeleton Soldier of [Strength 14] Agility 17 Health 14] was summoned. Magic Consumption: 1, Reguired Control: 1 He used 8 points to increase its Skill Level. The Skeleton Soldier's ability was increased in one sitting, and it was capable of exhibiting a powerful combat capability greater than a fully grown male. When the Skill Level reached 10, the Skeleton Soldier's appearance goes through a change, so he only raised it to lvl 9. It would be annoying for him to explain the changed appearance. 'It should be able to pull its own weight.' Woojin decided not to do too much. He'll just make a decent amount of money. He wanted to attempt the Dungeon by himself when he had enough money. "The next corner will have 6 goblins!" At Bae-dohsoo's direction, the Skeleton Soldier drew the gaze of the enemies from the front, then the close combat fighters built a strong shield wall. Sunggoo's fire ball was surprisingly effective.

Hwa-roo-rook. Boom.

The goblins' formation collapsed when the head-sized fire ball flew towards them.

Bae-dohsoo's Ignition ability couldn't directly cause damage, but it was good at creating a tactical advantage.

The spark of flame would suddenly form in front of a goblin's face. While the surprised goblins were flailing about, the close combat fighters would run in and beat up the goblins.

Woojin also participated as he used the Skeleton to kill the goblins.

"The pile of bones is faster than I had expected."

"It is also powerful. Isn't it better than most F ranks?"

Bae-dohsoo's team acknowledged Woojin and Sunggoo. As the battle continued, they became more in sync, so the hunting speed increased.

At first, their goal was not to clear the Dungeon. They had decided to kill all the summoned monsters to extract the blood stones then exit the Dungeon. They didn't take the shortest route to the Return Stone located in the lowest floor. They hunted everything as they descended.

They caught a good number of monsters, so Woojin leveled up once as he became lvl 5. The goblins also gave more Achievement Points compared to the Drabbits, so every kill gave him 2 points.

Woojin used the Skeleton Soldier, so he didn't have much to do. The original team had grown experienced together in the 1 star Dungeons, so they worked harmoniously.

Since this was a 2 star Dungeon, Bae-dohsoo was initially very cautious, but he was slowly gaining confidence. The drop rate of the Blood stones couldn't be compared to the 1 star Dungeons.

They had already acquired 17 Blood Stones. The Blood Stones came in various size, but if they exchanged it to money, they'll receive around 400 at the very least. If they split it between the party members, each member would receive money of over 100.

Of course, this was only counting the Blood stones they currently have. They still had more monsters to kill, so they'll make more money in the end.

'The 2 star dungeon is a jackpot.'

Of course, the original team was taking an active role, but the danger level was decreased by Woojin's Skeleton Soldier taking the brunt of the attack. Moreover, the

battles were also helped by Sunggoo's fireball.

They had pretty good powers, so teams would probably covet after these outstanding individuals. Even Bae-dohsoo thought about giving them an offer when the Dungeon Attack was finished.

"This is the last floor. Let's all work hard."

They had to clear the Dungeon and exit within an hour, so the break time was short. The party was in a hallway and they were about to step on to the stairs leading to the last floor.

There were 5 goblins and one hobgoblin standing at the entrance. One was much larger than the others, and it was holding on to a very large cane.

"Let's go forward in our basic formation."

Woojin turned his head in confusion at Bae-dohsoo's confident words. He had fought the Demon Lord's army at the Planet Alphen. He had crossed path with countless number of monster, and it included the hobgoblins.

This bastard was very troublesome compared to the normal goblins. It wasn't because its larger body. The bastard had the highest intellect amongst the goblins. It was a goblin magician. Moreover...

'I don't think this will successful.'

Woojin clicked his tongue as he saw his teammates inch forward.

"Shouldn't we be a little bit more careful?"

Bae-dohsoo nodded his head at Woojin's word. Still, his face was filled with confidence. His continuous victories made him forget the fact that he was attempting a 2 star Dungeon for the first time.

"I'm well-acquainted with the manual. That bastard's main attack is magic. Jongchul's ability can be used to create a barrier. He can delay it by blocking it once, then we'll rush in for a decisive victory."

One of the shield carriers had an ability to make a barrier. Woojin shrugged his

shoulder, and he decided to follow his lead. Bae-dohsoo was the team leader, and he was just a hanger-on.

Of course, the team leader also held all the responsibility.

"It's coming. Block it!"

At Bae-dohsoo's word, the man name Jongchul activated his ability. A gray barrier spread out, and it collided with the lightning.

Pah-ji-jeek!

As the barrier disappeared, the lightning also disappeared.

"All right. Let's go!"

Bae-dohsoo immediately used his Ignition ability, and he messed with the hobgoblin's field of vision. Then the party members charged. Even Sunggoo threw a fireball towards the hobgoblin.

'It should still be dangerous.'

Hobgoblins had very high intelligence. It was high enough for them to cast magic. Moreover, magic wasn't the only reason why hobgoblins were dangerous.

"Ggeee, ggeek."

The hobgoblin let out a bizarre sound, and the goblins nearby bunched together. The goblins had crude shields attached to the hand grasping their clubs.

They had dismantled signs, newspaper stands and various items to make makeshift shields. Then they pulled out pipes that was hidden within their body, and they took aim.

"Attack! We just have to kill the hobgoblin first."

At Bae-dohsoo's words, the archer aimed and fired at the hobgoblin. However, the bastard had already hidden its body behind the stair's balustrade. Moreover, the goblins should be in disarray from the fireball, yet the goblins stood in formation as they fortified their line of shields.

The goblins and the team collided with each other.

"I... I think something is different about these bastards?"

The bastards, who they were grappling with, had the same body and strength as the previous goblins. However, the difference was they were fighting in a shrew manner. The party felt a strange sense of danger, and the battle was basically shifting against them.

Pew-pew-pewk.

The goblins, who were hiding, shot their unique weapon, paralysis needles. Some even used poisoned needles.

"Ah, it stings. What is this?"

"Uh uh, my body."

Their bodies weren't entirely paralyzed, but the region hit by the paralysis needle became rigid. Even if it lasted only for a moment, it became a huge source of danger where weapons were swung indiscriminately in battle.

Puh-uk!

"Uh uh?"

One person fell over after being hit by the club swung by a goblin. As if his heart was being strangled, Bae-dohsoo felt a feeling of suffocation. The bastards, who should be dead from one swing of his sword, was responding in an organized manner. It was very troublesome to fight against them.

'Tsk, this is why I knew they would fail.'

Hobgoblins were dangerous not because of their physical ability nor their magic. They were able to command other goblins with their superior intellect. The goblins stopped being a 1 star monster when they obtained a commander. The whole group should be looked as a single entity.

"E... scape. Get out of there."

Bae-dohsoo yelled from the rear, and the close combat fighters fought each other to be the first to run away. However, it was after one had completely lost his consciousness. If they continued to run away, the person would inevitably die.

Hwa-roo-rook, Puhng!

After the cool time had ended, Sunggoo threw a fireball towards the goblins, who were chasing after them. Two goblins quickly retreated as they were set on fire. The close combat fighters used this time to quickly retreat.

"I don't think we can do this. Let's retreat first!"

"What about Jongchul?"

"He's already dead! Can't you see it?"

At Bae-dohsoo's indignant shout, their faces became rigid. They felt sorry for their comrade. Moreover, they also felt fear and the desire to live, so their expressions was extremely gloomy.

Even if they thought about it, their decision was obvious.

Nothing was more precious than their own lives.

"Retreat!"

At Bae-dohsoo's shout, the party members quickly ran away. Still, it wasn't as if the band of goblins did nothing.

Pah-jee-jeek!

The hobgoblin regained its senses. It let out a lightning strike, and it directly hit Sunggoo's body.

He couldn't even let out a scream. Sunggoo's eyes flipped over as his mouth stayed wide open.

"Chet, hurry up and run away!"

Sunggoo wasn't even part of their original team, so they didn't feel sorry for him. The

Roused were basically beings hiding within death's shadow when they decide to enter a Dungeon.

He was just unlucky.

"Kee-eek, keek!"

The goblins feigned chasing after them, but after awhile, they returned to the hobgoblin's side. Woojin, who was hiding behind a pillar, revealed himself.

"It's been awhile since I hunted a group."

There were two casualties, and the rest ran away. Woojin laughed as he looked at the bunched goblins.

He had enjoyed being a spectator, but that had come to an end.

Chapter 14 Dungeons Necromancer

"Ok. Let's go, my minions."

Pah-pahk, pahk!

At Woojin's call, the 4 corpses of the goblin exploded, and the Skeleton Soldiers was summoned.

"Ggeegeek."

"Keekeekee."

The goblins yelled like surprised monkeys, and the Skeleton Soldier's unique playful sound was also heard. In the middle, Woojin threw away his light club then he took out the claw hammer from his inventory.

The hammer had enough weight and destructive ability for his purpose. Until he could acquire a proper weapon, he had no choice, but to store it in his inventory for later use.

"Well, let's do this."

Woojin started running, and the Skeleton Soldiers ran forward to open a path for their general. The Skeleton Soldiers pressed into the goblins. The hobgoblin was taken aback, and it started to give out a hurried command. The goblins tried to cut off Woojin, but their heads exploded from the claw hammer.

"Keekeekeee."

As soon goblins became dead corpses, Skeleton Soldiers exploded forth from them. Woojin had used a decent amount of Skill Points, so the Skeleton Soldiers could exhibit physical strength comparable to a low ranked Roused.

Moreover, they weren't easily killed. In a flash, he had 14 creatures, which was the

limit of his control. Woojin held up the claw hammer, which was soaked in goblin's blood, towards the shocked hobgoblin.

The bastard's cane was letting out a crackling sound, and one could see electricity coalesce at the end. His electric attack's cool time had probably ended.

Woojin used the sharp end of the claw hammer to ram it into hobgoblin's head.

Kwa-jahk. Pshhhh.

It pierced through the hobgoblin's skull, and the electricity charged at the end of the cane dissipated before it could be shot.

"Whew. This is great for gathering points. It's best to hunt a group of monsters."

Each goblin gave him 2 Achievement points. The hobgoblin gave an astounding 5 points. This was only a 2 star Dungeon, so he could only guess how many points he could get at a high tiered Dungeon.

He thought about the Magic Scrolls being sold in his Point Store. It seemed it was only a matter of time before he was restored to the heights he had reached at the Alphen Planet.

The Exp was also pretty good, so he leveled up once.

"Party play doesn't suit my style."

He had Skeleton Soldiers, who could tank in front of him, so he just needed an attack he could deal damage from the back. He'll be able to learn the Skills once he leveled up a little bit more.

He had passively participated in the party play, so the number of monsters Woojin attacked was low. It slowed him down from earning Exp and Achievement Points.

Woojin activated his Search Magic as he looked at the fallen goblins. He didn't have go through the hassle of searching all the goblin corpses to find the Blood stones.

The Seach Magic illuminated any items that possessed Mana. Woojin saw a light leaking out of the fallen hobgoblin's possession, so he searched through it.

"Uh? It's a Magic Scroll."

Woojin looked at the Mag

Woojin looked at the Magic Scroll, but he had no way of knowing what kind of magic it was.

"I have to learn Identification Magic anyways. I'll just use this as an opportunity to buy it."

Woojin pulled up his Point Store, then he used 20 Achievement Points to learn the 'Identification' magic. He could use 1 star disposable item called Identification Scroll, but he decided to learn how to use this magic. There was no downside since he would be using this magic often.

<Identification>

The hidden information of the item will be known to you.

The failure rate decreases as your Intelligence increases.

Magic Consumption: 1

As soon as Woojin learned the magic, he casted Identification on the Magic Scroll.

<Electric Shock>

An electric attack can be sent towards a target.

Magic Consumption : 1 Latency Time : 20

"Ho oh. This is what the bastard was using."

Woojin searched through his Point Store, and he found the price of the Electric Shock

scroll. It was priced at 100 Achievement Points.

With 30 points, he could buy low ranked elemental magic where he could create a flame or produce water.

The electric attack was more useful as an attack magic, so he understood why it was 3 times more expensive than the others.

"It's still a middling price."

He could earn the points if he defeat 50 goblins. If he thought about how fast he dispatched the goblins, it didn't look to be that expensive. However, if he was to buy it, he thought it wasn't cheap either.

It wasn't something he needed right now, so he put the Magic Scroll away. Then he excavated the blood stones from the goblin's heads as it continued to emit a light.

"Ooh ooh ooh."

"Huh?"

Woojin, who was excavating the blood stones, looked around his surrounding when he heard the moan. His face had stiffened, but no monster had appeared. Woojin was alert as he looked around, and his eyes met Sunggoo's pain filled eyes.

His eyes were moving up and down in agony. It seemed he had regained consciousness. His face was grimacing as if he was still in pain.

Woojin approached him, and he squatted down next to him. It seemed effects of the Electric Shock's hadn't disappeared yet. Sunggoo forced words out with his stiff tongue.

"H, help m..."

"How much did you see?"

Woojin cut off Sunggoo as he asked a question. Sunggoo looked up with a pleading expression, but Woojin's face was indifferent.

Woojin had seen countless number of people die. This included comrades, and

enemies he had met. Moreover, he had also seen innocent fallen souls being stolen.

"Ah, I don't care."

This wasn't Alphen Planet. He didn't really need to kill Sunggoo. He wasn't a spy from a hostile country, so silencing him wasn't a necessity.

"P... please save me."

He was slowly gaining control of his tonue, so Sunggoo's words became clearer. Sunggoo was someone who had the ability to make fireballs. He was someone who dealt in magic, so he was somewhat resistant to magic.

If he was a civilian and not a Roused, he would already be dead. However, if he was left here, then he'll surely be kill by the monsters downstairs.

"What will you do for me if I save you?"

"I'll keep my mouth shut."

"About what?"

"The fact that big brother is a Rank D Roused."

Woojin smirked at Sunggoo's words. It seemed one had to be a Rank D Roused to easily defeat a hobgoblin and a couple dozen goblins.

Still, he didn't really care if his story was spread. Woojin wasn't interested in such things.

"How much are you willing to give me?"

"What?"

Is this how one felt when one couldn't say anything from being too flustered? Hongsonggoo didn't know how he should answer the question, so he hesitated.

"If I leave you here, then you'll probably become like him?"

Woojin pointed towards the bloody corpse of Jongchul. He had been beaten by the

goblin's club in numerous locations, so he was a gruesome sight to behold.

"I... I'll give it to you."

If he could live, then how could the money be a problem? He'll take out his entire savings if he was able to live. Money was something he could earn more as he increased in the Roused ranks.

"How... how much do you want?"

At Sunggoo's word, Woojin unfurled two fingers. Sunggoo was surprised, and he gritted his teeth.

'If it's 2 thousand then it is well worth my life.' (TLN:2??? around \$18,000)

He'll be spending all the money he had saved, but it didn't matter. He had just started his life as a Roused, so he'll make much more in the future.

"I understand."

Woojin smiled in satisfaction at Sunggoo's reply.

'If its 2 hundred then I'll have enough entrance fee for Solo Play.' (TLN: ~\$1,800)

This was his 3rd day back.

Roused Kang-woojin was still naive.

Chapter 15 What Goes Around Comes Around (1)

"Whew, It's done."

Sunggoo wiped the sweat off his ghastly face. The last floor was a very large space, and there had been enough monster to fill up the whole floor. Of course, Sunggoo wasn't sweating, because he had participated in the battles.

"Did you excavate it all?"

At Woojin's words, Sunggoo brought the pile of blood stones to him.

"How can someone like big brother be Rank F? At the very least, you should be Rank D. Since you have a lot of abilities, you could even receive Rank C."

"I'll get it later."

Sunggoo looked at Woojin, who spoke indifferently, as if he was seeing a monster.

The monsters on the last floor of the Dungeon was wiped out by Woojin and his summoned beings. Sunggoo was assigned the role of excavating blood stone from the monsters Woojin pointed out. He basically did the clean up work.

Woojin had the ability to hunt 1 star and 2 star monsters by himself. His battle ability was close to a Rank D, and he wouldn't fall short against a Rank C in terms of versatility. He was able to summon the Skeletons, and he could search for the blood stones. Moreover, he was able to extract some gray energy from the dead monster's corpses, and he was able to use it to heal himself.

Isn't there a saying that says a sandalwood is fragrant even in seed leaf?(TLN:idiom used to describe genius who display their abilities even in childhood) Sunggoo looked at this person, who had finished his Roused registration only 3 hours ago. He believed this noob Roused Kang-woojin will become someone to be reckoned with.

"Uh? What are you doing? You are going to learn it instead of selling it?"

"Yeah, why?"

Woojin inserted his magic in to the Magical Scroll he held in his hand. As the Magic Scroll disappeared, he absorbed the magic, Electric Shock. He had to save his Achievement Points since he had a lot of skills to learn. Therefore, he decided to learn the magic, Electric Shock, since he already possessed the Magic Scroll.

Even if he wanted to learn a more higher ranked Magic, he could only learn from Magic Scrolls related to the Necromancer class. Still, Electric Shock would be useful when attacking a person. There was no downside in learning it.

"Hul. You already have a lot of ability yet you are learning more magic, big brother? If you had sold it, you could have sold it for one hundred million won....." (TLN: 100,000,000 won or \$89306 dollars)

"....?"

At Hong-songgoo's words, Woojin's face became rigid. A 100 point Magic Scroll was worth a hundred million?

"...it was that expensive?"

"Of course. It allows you to gain an additional ability. It is qualitatively different from an Artifact."

Magical energy had to be injected into an Artifact for it to activate its imbued magic. On the other hand, Magic Scroll allowed a Roused to learn the magic. With a Magic Scroll, one didn't have to worry about losing it, and even a low ranked Magic Scroll could be used for research. Of course, it would be expensive.

"Huh. Why would such an expensive item drop in a mere 2 star Dungeon?"

"I'm not sure. You must be really lucky. It isn't like it never happens. It just doesn't show up that often. So what kind of magic was it?"

"It's the one you got hit with. It's the Electric Shock that was used by the hobgoblin."

"Hul. You would have at the very least gotten one hundred million....."

One hundred million. It was one hundred million.

"Whew."

If he knew the Magic Scroll was worth one hundred million then he would have just used 100 points to learn the Electric Shock. He wanted to buy the Magic Scroll from the Achievement Store to sell, but the Skill Books purchased from the Point Store couldn't be used in a transaction.

Only Woojin could learn it.

Woojin had learned 'Soul Extract' to restore the barely alive Sunggoo. It cost him 50 points, but he didn't hesitate since he had to learn it anyway.

After a monster or a person dies, their souls remain next to the corpses for a brief moment. At that moment, he could extract the souls then he could use it as a source of energy.

Whether it was magic, vitality or stamina, a small portion of it could be recovered. When Woojin injected it into someone else, the efficacy decreased.

Sunggoo thought Woojin was using healing magic, but the truth was different. Woojin was stealing the life force of others to share with him.

"Ssssoop, whew. Let's not worry about the cost."

Woojin tried to soothe his aching innards. If he had sold the Magic Scroll, then he wouldn't have to traverse a Dungeon for a long while. No, if he thought about the fallen real estate value in Seoul, he could have moved into a huge villa that was much bigger than the current one room......

Ah, let's not think about it.

"How much can I get with this much blood stones?"

"At the very least, you could get around 800. I think you can get more. I'm not too sure..."

He had invested 100,000 won, so he made a good amount of profit. If his party members hadn't run away, we would have only received one million won for his cut.

"It's all mine."

"Of... of course."

"How about the Return Stone?"

"I have it here."

"Then let's go."

Woojin and Sungoo swept the blood stones into the bag, and they were about to head upstairs.

"It looks like an ambush."

He only had a low level detection skill, but he could feel a faint sense of murderous intent. Woojin gave Sunggoo a warning. When Woojin came to a stop, Sunggoo's expression also turned serious.

They had killed all the monsters. Unless they re-entered the Dugneon, the monsters won't regenerate. If there was an ambush, then it had to be Bae-dohsoo's party.

"Are they trying to PK?"

Woojin questioned Sunggoo, whose voice was shaking from worry.

"Does this happen often?"

"It happens occasionally. It probably happens more off the record. This is why people don't party up with a group they don't know. The hell's gate is opened when a treasure like Magic Scroll and Artifact is found."

"If there is a fight, how is it handled?"

"No one will know what had happened inside the Dungeon. It is an written rule that they'll only act when there is indisputable evidence."

"Huh. Then it's an easy way to dispose of a dead body."

Woojin grinned and he looked up into the dark stairway. He stopped walking then he looked back. There were monster corpses lying everywhere. Woojin took several steps back as he distanced himself from the stairway. Sunggoo also followed Woojin's action.

"Hey, stop hiding there like a rat. Why don't you come out?"

Soon, there was a response from Woojin's words. Bae-dohsoo's party slowly stepped on to the stairs. One had an awkward expression, and another seemed to be apologetic. The rest had a no nonsense attitude.

"What happened? Did you defeat them all?"

Bae-dohsoo put on a performance as he slyly asked a question. Woojin spoke in a low voice toward Sunggoo.

"I'm planning on taking him by surprise when he gets close."

"What should I do?"

Sunggoo looked at Woojin with worried eyes. Woojin shrugged his shoulders.

"You bastards ran away yet you have have the gall to show up again. Why are you here when you should be waiting in front of the barrier?"

The sudden disrespectful words spat out by Woojin made Bae-dohsoo's eyebrows twitch, but he laughed awkwardly as he tried to keep his expression in control.

"Haha. Why are you being like this? Aren't we on the same team? We just made a tactical retreat, and we came back to clear the Dungeon. When we arrived, it seemed all the monsters were killed. How did you do it?"

Bae-dohsoo's thoughts were in a complete state of confusion. Two F ranked Roused were able to clear all the monsters, so he couldn't believe what had happened. Bae-dohsoo secretly looked towards the bag filled with blood stones.

Woojin laughed.

Those who were blinded by greed couldn't see what was right in front of their eyes.

"Stop fucking around. You just wanted to take the Return Stone, but now you are covetous of a ready made meal?"

Woojin threw the bag filled with blood stones in front of him.

Chwa-roo-rook.

Blood stones spilled out from the bag's opening. It's was thrown about the midway point between Woojin and Bae-dohsoo's party.

"Try taking it if you covet it."

At Woojin's words, Bae-dohsoo's expression stiffened.

"It seems you are mistaken. Do you think we will try to PK someone, who had defeated a monster we couldn't kill? It is a misunderstanding. We aren't that stupid."

"Go on."

"I'm sorry for not looking out for you. However, my life was one the line so what could I do? We just came back to look for the Return Stone. Since you cleared the Dungeon, we were fortunate enough to be able to retrieve Jongchul's corpse. Therefore, I am very thankful."

At Bae-dohsoo's words, Woojin felt that he had been too sensitive. Yes, the people here weren't at all like those from the Alphen Planet.

Maybe they were hiding themselves on top of the staircase in case they ran into a monster? From their perspective, they had no idea of what was going on at the bottom floor.

'Maybe I'm being too sensitive.....'

For the past 20 years, he had lived in a location where people betrayed each other for a fistful of money. This is why he was always on edge. However, this was earth. This place was Seoul.

It is a place where peace and moral was alive...

Hwa-roo-rook.

...my ass.

Woojin hurriedly waved his arm through the flame that ignited in front of his eyes.

"Right now."

At Bae-dohsoo's shout, the man with the bow shot an arrow toward Hong-songgoo. His fireball attack was an ability they had to get rid of first.

After Bae-dohsoo ran away, he had come to an agreement with his party. They weren't skilled enough to attempt a 2 star dungeon. The money wasn't that great, but they had decided to return to the 1 star Dungeons.

They returned to carefully look for the Return Stone, but all the monsters were dead. Even the hobgoblin was dead, and this made his head spin.

Greed grew in him.

No matter how hard they searched they could only find Jongchul's corpse. Woojin and Sunggoo's corpses were missing. This meant the two of them had conquered the bottom floor by themselves.

If they were able to defeat the hobgoblin, this meant one of them was hiding his real capability. This is why they had prepared an ambush, but their opponents saw through it first.

Bae-dohsoo tried to put Woojin at ease. At the same time, he tried to assess the situation. He tried to determine if it was worth killing them. Dohsoo's eyes almost flipped over backwards when Woojin threw the bag filled with blood stones.

It was a sum of money equivalent to working a 1 star Dungeon for one month.

Bae-dohsoo confirmed from Woojin's sharp reaction that he was suspicious.

'He is on guard against us.'

The fact that he was on guard meant it would be dangerous for them. He didn't know what method they used to kill the numerous monsters, but he was wary of attacking them.

He decided to use the fact that his opponent was feeling a sense of danger against he. He thought it was worth trying to attack them.

'Let's hit them.'

Bae-dohsoo gave the sign they had agreed to in advance, then he used his Ignition ability. At the same time, Woojin's face was engulfed in flame, and an arrow pierced through Sunggoo's shoulder.

"Koo-ook."

The party members attacked the surprised man even before the flame had formed. The weapons would cut through more easily through human flesh than the tough leather of monsters.

"Whew. Please don't resent me. Aren't all Roused like this?"

Bae-dohsoo took out the dagger equipped on his belt, then he stabbed it toward the staggering Woojin.

Shweeek.

Even though, the flame was impeding Woojin's sight, he was able to grab the hand stabbing at him. Woojin reversed the grip on the hand as he threw him. His strength and speed was so fast that Bae-dohsoo didn't have the chance to do anything.

He was on par with a Roused with a physical ability.

"Whew. That's pretty hot."

As the flames faded away, Woojin wiped his face with his hands. He glared at Baedohsoo's party, who was taken aback. Sunggoo had an arrow in his shoulder, and he was looking at Woojin with tear-filled eyes.

"It was pretty insolent attack."

His face was slightly red, and it seemed he had taken some minor burns to the face. However, Woojin was smiling.

"I guess I should have expected this?"

Woojin extended both his arms.

Pah-pahk!

The scattered monster's corpses exploded, and the scraps of meat flew everywhere. It was a grand sight. If one had a weak constitution, the grotesque sight would make one faint.

"Resent me."

Woojin let out a white smile.

Resentment wouldn't change anything.

"I'll laugh to my heart's content."

He'll taken on all the resentment from the weak. It would be too cruel for him to deny them that much, since their souls would be imprisoned as they will fall from grace.

The Skeletons' bone knives didn't show any hesitation or mercy.

"Kooh-ahhk."

In a flash, the entire party was taken down then Woojin headed towards Bae-dohsoo. He was still twitching, so it seemed he was still alive.

"W, wait a moment, let's talk..."

"Are you waiting for your Ignition ability's cool time?"

Kwa-jeek!

Woojin unhesitatingly stabbed the dagger he took from Bae-dohsoo into his heart. Bae-dohsoo trembled for a moment before he went limp. Woojin looked at him without showing much interest as he took the Bae-dohsoo's bag.

It was filled with blood stones they had acquired before they met the hobgoblin. Moreover, Woojin searched Bae-dohsoo's body, and he took his wallet. He took out all the cash and he stuffed it into his pocket. Before he knew it, Woojin was humming a tune.

'Un... unbelievable.'

In front of Hong-sunggoo, four lives were taken in an instant. He tried to cover his

mouth with both hands as he tried to stop the words that almost leaked out of his mouth.

He was so surprised that it seemed he wasn't conscious of the pain caused by the arrow in his shoulder. Woojin also went through the other party members' pockets, then he mumbled.

"Anyways, the bastards who try to stab me in the back will never speak again."

Is he saying this for his benefit? Sunggoo's eyes trembled uncontrollably.

"The people I hate the most are those who try to stab others in the back. Isn't that right, Sunggoo?"

Woojin whipped his head around, and he looked into Sunggoo's eyes. He was so surprised that he almost wet his pants. Woojin had killed four people, but his face was too indifferent.

Even when one kills a monster, or even a small animal, one usually feels excitement, or guilt. Some kind of emotion should be stirred up, yet Woojin looked like he had pulled weeds out from the side of the road after he killed these people. Sunggoo couldn't sense any change in his emotion.

It felt like Woojin was something more than a murderer.

His peacefulness drove the terror deep into Hong-songgoo.

"Why aren't you answering me?"

Chapter 16 What Goes Around Comes Around (2)

"That, that is correct."

Woojin had emptied the pockets of Bae-dohsoo's party members, and he had a happy expression. When one looked at his expression as he counted the money, one couldn't find any indication that he was feeling any guilt.

Sunggoo couldn't even let out a moan since he was afraid of Woojin. He just stood there. Sunggoo got his feet wet in the 1 star Dungeons, but this was the first time he saw someone be killed in front of his eyes. Moreover, the killing was done through a person's hands.

Woojin looked indifferent after he killed these people. He acted as if he had experienced such trifling events numerous times.

"They carried around a lot of cash."

Woojin felt great since he obtained an unexpected revenue of \$900. At Woojin's humming, Sunggoo suddenly started to hiccup.

"You almost died because of me."

"N... no."

If it wasn't for Woojin, he would have already died when he was left to the monsters.

"Then why don't you double the amount."

"What?"

"I saved you twice now."

""

In total, he wanted 4.

Even if he emptied all of his savings account, he wouldn't be able to come up with the 40 thousand dollars. Sunggoo made an expression as if he was about to cry. Woojin took out the arrow embedded in his shoulder with a happy expression. Then Woojin gathered the undispersed souls of Bae-dohsoo and his party members. He used it to heal Sunggoo's wounds.

"Hoo-oop."

Sunggoo felt something enter him, and he gasped as he felt the rapid regeneration. This wound healing couldn't be compared to the one before.

The Soul Extraction was more effective if the soul came from a higher form of life. Of course, a human's soul would be a better source of energy than a monster's soul.

"Th... thank you."

"Ah, it was nothing. Everything I do will be charged."

"...yes."

Sunggoo quickly gathered the scattered blood stones then he followed behind Woojin. When Woojin and Sunggoo exited the Dungeon, the public service employee's eyes became round.

"Huh? Why are there only two of you?"

"They were all taken down by the monsters."

At Woojin's composed words, the public service employee's eyes narrowed.

"Then how were you able to gather all the blood stones?"

"Even if others die, it doesn't mean one should leave all the valuables behind. Right?"

At Woojin's assertive answer, the public employee's eyes narrowed further. When he looked at the situation, he guessed these two had stabbed the others in the back to monopolize the profit. However, he had no way of proving it.

"Koo-hmm. Just sign here before you leave. The Bureau may contact you if they decide to hold an investigation on a later date."

Woojin, and Sunggoo signed the entrance ledger that was handed over to them. Then the public employee in charge used a 'Deceased' stamp to make a mark next to the names of the Roused, who had entered with them into the Dungeon.

If one was near a subway station, there was always a decent Bloodstone exchange store nearby.

The price of the Bloodstones almost never fluctuated.

The exchange store took a fixed amount of tax, and it also took the fee one was required to give to the very first person who cleared the Dungeon. The rest was deposited into the customer's account.

When Woojin exited the Shinrim Station's exchange store, his mouth was practically hanging from his ears.

'I've earned over 13,000 dollars from a single Dungeon.'

The blood stones were worth 12,300 dollars, and he had taken \$900 from those bastards' wallets. Originally, this was suppose to be split amongst eight people. However, the important fact was he had earned \$13,000.

Moreover, if he included the \$4000 he'll receive from saving Sunggoo's life, then he had a large sum of around \$17,000.

'Next time I'll have to go around the Dungeons by myself.'

If he could make this much money at once like this, he didn't need to worry about the entrance fee. He could clear a Dungeon in 1 hour, so it would be much more profitable for him to clear it by himself.

Woojin wrapped his arm around Sunggoo's neck.

"Put in your phone number."

"Yes, yes."

When Hong-sunggoo put in his phone number, Woojin immediately pressed the call button. After he heard the ringtone come from Sunggoo's pocket, he ended the phone call.

"Good, good. You have my account number?"

"Yes. I've definitely written it down."

"All right. Travel safely."

Woojin took out 10 dollars from his fat wallet. Sunggoo tried to dissuade him, but he put the bill in Sunggoo's hand.

"Use it for transportation fee."

"Th... thank you. Big brother."

"Oh yea. Remember I really hate bastards who stab me in the back."

"I... I'll bear that in mind."

Sunggoo lowered his head after he watched the happy Woojin leave. Sunggoo's face looked as if he had lost his country.

"He said four... I'll be short even after I break open my savings."

Hong-songoo had become a Roused two month ago, and he had made a lot of money compared to his 21 year old peers. Still, it hadn't been easy for him to make money.

He had visited the 1 star Dungeons everyday for the past two months. He was able to earn more than 30 thousand dollars. He had been successful in saving some money, increase the effectiveness of his fireball ability, and decrease his cool-time.

It was an incredible amount of cash flow compared to a regular person. However, it was money he had earned by putting his life on the line. His stomach churned at the idea that he would have to blow all the money he had struggled to gather.

Still, he was pulled out from a certain death, so how could he compare his life to his entire asset? He probably could get a loan for \$4,000 to fill the missing amount of money.

"Ughh. When he said 4 bills, I hope he didn't mean the big 4 bills?"

Whether it is 40 thousand or 400 thousand, he intended to give him everything he got. However, he probably didn't have the ability to make 400 thousand dollars. It was a figure that felt too far away to reach.

He hoped Woojin didn't put such a high price on his life. Sunggoo headed towards the bank to break open his savings.



Woo-soonghoon was a pretty successful owner of a cellphone store. He had 8 years of experience as a salesman, and he had used the money he had saved to purchase a store. His store was quickly becoming a fixture.

"Hah-ahm. There is no customers today."

Soonghoon let out a yawn when the glass door opened and a man quickly ran in.

"Where's the restroom? Is it here?"

The man abruptly opened the door behind the counter, then he entered it. Soonghoon watched this with surprise in his eyes. He probably lost the ability to speak since he was too flustered?

"What is this? Who is this crazy man?"

Soonghoon rose from his seat, and he spoke in an annoyed voice.

"Mister. That is the storage room. Please come out."

""

When there weren't any reply or reaction, a vein popped out on Soonghoon's forehead. He wanted to make sure the man wasn't doing his business inside the room, so he opened the door to the storage room.

"Ah jeez, come out....."

Soonghoon's clothes were grabbed by a hand, and he was forcibly dragged into the

storage room.

Koo-dahng-tahng.

As he was thrown into the boxes containing products, Soonghoon knew something was wrong.

'He's crazy. A crazy man has appeared.'

Soonghoon quickly located his opponent. No, his opponent grabbed him first. He was lifted up by his collar, and Soonghoon struggled as his feet didn't even touch the floor.

'What, what kind of strength.'

Soonghoon was a big man, but his opponent was stronger than him. Moreover, his denseness was proportional to his strength.

Hweeek, Zzuhk!

Soonghoon was suddenly struck on his cheek, so he lost the words he was about to say. His ears rang with a buzzing sound.(TLN: Mawp mawp) Moreover, he couldn't think about anything as if he had become dumber.

Hweeek, Zzuhk!

The opposite cheek was struck, and Woo-soonghoon's consciousness started to fade. He tasted a coppery taste in his mouth as the inside of his mouth started bleeding.

Hweeek, Zzuhk!

Soonhoon came to his senses when his cheeks were hit again. He felt an instinctual fear. He used all of will to desperately open his mouth.

"H, help me."

Hweeek, Zzahk!

Instead of an answer, the hand flew towards him. Soonhoon felt a sense of despair when his numb cheeks were hit again.

'He has completely lost his mind. If I'm not careful, I might really die.'

Did he see it on the TV? Indiscriminate violence? Didn't innocent people get beaten for no reason? Or maybe someone sent a killer after him? Now that he thought about it, the opponent probably entered the storage room since it didn't have a CCTV. He was sure this was a planned attack.

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"Hey, you."
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"Yes. Yes, sir!"

For the first time, the other person spoke instead of using his hand. Sooghoon reflexively answered him.

Hweeek, Kwadahng.

The man in question once again roughly threw Soonghoon against the wall.

"Ooh-ook."

"Get up. Attention."

"Yes, sir."

It had been a long time since he was in the military, but his survival instinct made it all come back.

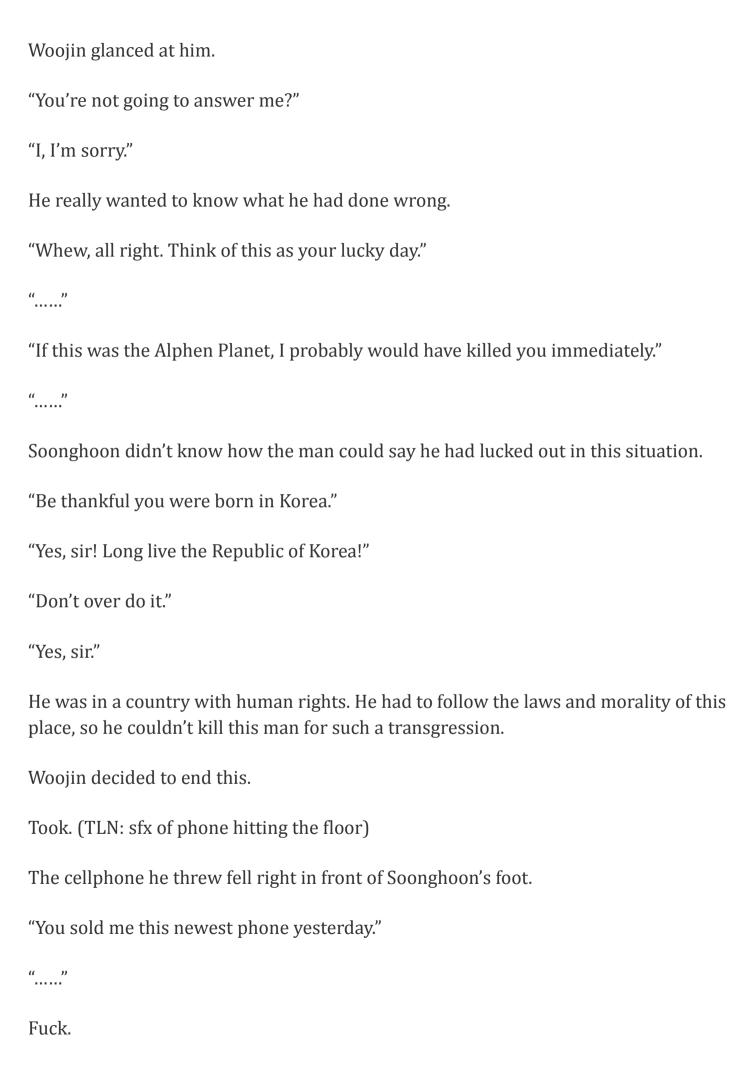
If he let out even a squeak, it felt like he would be beaten to death.

The man in question was emitting such an atmosphere. His pose made him look like a mafia boss, who was in charge of several hundred underlings.

"I hate bastards who hit me in the back of my head.(TLN:figure of speech about betrayal) Moreover, I hate those who dare to scam me."

""

They hadn't even met before, so how could he have hit him in the back of the head? Soonghoon was too scared to make an expression showing his innocence.



Soonghoon finally remember who this man was. He looked like a guy recently arrived from the boondocks, and he had sold him a handphone that was worth less than \$10 for \$90. He had felt so good about that sale that he even remembered the guy's name.

'The pushover from yesterday is this bastard?'

How could a person change so much?

The yesterday's pushover came back today as the grim reaper. Moreover, it seemed he was a Roused. If he new this person was a Roused, he wouldn't have tried such a clumsy scam.

```
"I bought the newest phone....."

"....."

"However, when I went home, I was told it was an old one."

"That, that is......"

"Was there an error on your part?"
```

This was an extreme situation where his life may be on the line, so he started quickly turning the wheels in his thoughts. Woo-soongjin had 8 years of experience as a salesperson, so of course, he knew what was Woojin's intent.

"I, I must have made a mistake."

"I knew that was the case."

Bullshit. You beat up a person like this because of a mistake?

"Give me another one."

"What, what kind of model....."

"How would I know? You choose it for me."

""

"Give me the most expensive one."

""

Woo-soonghoon thought hard on it. However, he eventually had no choice, but to take out the one smartphone he had left in stock.

*

Woojin had a happy face as he exited the cellphone store.

"Hoo hoo. The world has become so much better."

It didn't even take a second before the map opened. The navigation searched for his destination, then at the same time, it started giving him directions. The internet was very fast, and everything was to his satisfaction.

"Huh huh. The latest phones are the best."

Woojin opened his address book.

[Mother] [Do-jaemin] [Real Jaemin] [4]

"That guy transferred it correctly."

For a person in the modern age, the address book was a list of one's human connections. Woojin smiled as he looked at the list of phone numbers. He told the phone salesman that he would be back again. He ordered the salesman, Woosoonghoon, to enter his phone number, then Woojin warned him not to change his phone number.

Woojin called his mother to find out the address of the restaurant she was working at. It wasn't too far from his house. Woojin's steps was light as he returned to his house.

'Hoo hoo. After I save a little bit more, we'll have enought to move. Before all of that, I should probably make mother quit her job?'

Woojin was a bit spiteful towards her workplace, but it was the first time he would be visiting her workplace. Therefore, he bought a box of beverage.

[Soongmi's Restaurant]

"I think she said it was here?"

Woojin had found the restaurant at around 4 o'clock.

Even though it should be the idle hours, the small restaurant was half full.

Rrring.

"Welcome."

When the sound of the door opening was heard at the counter, a young lady reflexively gave a greeting with her eyes still glued to the cell phone.

Pew pew. Pee-buh!, Pew pew pew.

Soongmi was in the midst of playing a game on her phone. She regretfully ended the game then she raised her head.

"How many....."

She was going to greet the customer out of reflex when Soongmi's eyes became round.

He had a robust body, and he had wide shoulders that went well with his tall frame. He wasn't handsome yet he had a good looking face. He had a heavy atmosphere around him. He was a beauty of corruption with a dark aura around him.

However, there was something about his face...

"Big brother Woojin?"

"Uh? Why are you here, Soongmi?"

Woojin thought about the restaurant's name, and he was easily able infer what that meant.

"My mother works at your restaurant?"

"Uh? Your mother?"

"I'm talking about Mrs. Lee-soogyung."

"The kitchen lady?"

Soongmi's surprised eyes froze. The kitchen lady was Woojin's mother?

Also......

"What happened to you, big brother? Five years ago, I'm sure......"

Woojin grinned.

"Come back home." (TLN: he spoke broken English in Korean. I'll leave it alone.)

"Ah......"

A sigh leaked out of Soongmi's mouth.

Her first love, who disappeared 5 years ago, had returned.

Chapter 17 Their Circumstances (1)

A tiring battle ensued.
"Please quit."
"I can't quit."
"You don't have to earn any money. I'm making a lot of money now. This is the money I earned in half a day."
Woojin opened his bank app, then he show his mother his account statement. However, she wouldn't budge an inch.
"You came back after 5 years yet how could a mother thrust you back into such a deadly situation?"
"Then do you want me continue to live by receiving allowance from you? Do you want me to stay unemployed for the rest of my life, and live off the money you struggled to earn?"
Woojin hit his chest as if he was frustrated.
"I'll make a lot of money. I'll make enough that mother won't have to worry about money ever again. Mother and Sooah is my responsibility now. I've returned, so I'm the head of this family."
"Woo, Woojin. You"
His mother couldn't say anything. She just let her tears flow. The word, 'head of the family', swirled around her head.

Her oldest son had gone missing and even her husband had died.

The daughter she had late in life was only 2 years old, and she had always been a stay-

at-home mom. Yet she had to live on with such a heavy burden. It wasn't apt to say she had lived, but she had just held out.

Woojin tightly hugged his mother as a river of tears flowed out of her.

Before the tear-filled mother and son could have a conversation, the owner of the restaurant gave a fake cough. She was Soongmi's mother, Kim-soonohk. If it was up to her, she would have yelled at them for making a spectacle at someone else's store. However, her daughter Soongmi was giving her a signal. So she looked on without doing anything.

"Huh-oom. I don't want to say something like this, but how can you just quit your job like this? I know what your situation is like, but you should have a conscious. You know our store is busy, so work until I can hire someone."

Woojin's face stiffened at Kim-soonohk's words. He wanted his mother to immediately quit this arduous kitchen work, but his mother's answer was faster than his.

"Yes. Even if I do quit, a responsible person can't act that way. This isn't about money, so don't say anything."

"Ughh. Then please quit this place within a week. Sooah needs mother more than me."

She was only a 7 year old pre-schooler. She had always felt very sorry towards Sooah, so his sister might have been the straw that broke the camel's back.

'Husband. Our Woojin......'

She didn't know what skills he had acquired, but her son had suddenly showed up after 5 years. He said he would go away to prepare for the school qualification exam, but he came back after he earned a lot of money. For someone who worked at a restaurant, the money was quite the windfall.

Her tears wouldn't stop falling as she thought about her past arduous days.

"Mother. Hoo-hook. This is so sad."

Soongmi also started crying, so Kim-soonohk passed her a handkerchief. She had never seen her daughter act this way, so she was taken aback. Even though Soongmi was her daughter, she wasn't a kind girl, and she could be a bit of a bitch.

Normally, her daughter would call the kitchen lady auntie, then she would treat her with a bad temper. For some reason, her daughter was acting like a chaste and modest woman today.

After crying for a long while, Lee-soogyong reigned in her emotions, then she started to plead towards her boss, Kim-soonohk.

"Do you think I could get off work early today?"

"If she doesn't let you off, then just quit."

At Woojin's rejoinder, Kim-soonohk made a sound of indecision. However, in the end, she had no choice, but to allow it. It made a big difference for a single person to be missing from a busy restaurant, but she couldn't do anything about it.

It would be a bigger trouble if she didn't show up starting tomorrow.

"Yes, mother. Please go in first. Have a nice time with big brother Woojin..."

"O... okay, Ms Soongmi."

Lee-soogyung was bewildered by the restaurant owner's daughter Soongmi. She was responding in an amiable way.

"Big brother. Be safe! I'll see you again next time. Oh yeah. Here is my phone number."

Park-soongmi snatched Woojin's phone away as if she was stealing it. Then she put in her number to call her phone.

"Heh heh. Have a nice day, mother."

After receiving her goodbye, Woojin and Lee-soogyong left the restaurant. Soon the dinner crowd will rush in, but she didn't feel like working on a day like this.

"Uh. Where are we going, mom?"

Woojin was dragged by Lee-soogyong's hand towards a different direction from their house.

"You'll know once you get there. Any ways, what kind of relationship do you have with

Ms Soongmi?"

"Ah, her? She used to be my junior in school. Why?"

"Mmmm."

His mother didn't speak for a long time, then she suddenly stopped walking. She turned around to look straight at Woojin, and he could see traces of worry on her face.

"I don't plan on involving myself in my son's love life, but if you bring a bitch like her, mother will be against it."

Woojin smirked at his mother's words.

"I don't have any interest in her. I was wondering what you wanted to say to me."

The girl had given him a lot of stuff during Valentines day, but for him, 20 years had already passed. The only thing he remembered was her face.

At the time, he didn't have any feelings toward her, so he doubted he would develop any feelings for her now. Moreover, he could imagine how she had treated his mother by her reaction. So he was disgusted by her.

"Where are we going?"

"You'll know once we arrive there."

Lee-soongyong took her son, Kang-woojin, to a newly built apartment not too far from their home. The Hammer guild built their headquarters in the devastated region, and they had made a lot of progress there. However, a massive park was also built to one side.

Lee-soogyung made her son buy a bottle of alcohol from a convenience store near the park's entrance. Then she bought a single chrysanthemum flower from the flower shop.

They walked through a secluded path inside the park, and they arrived in front of a large monument located at the center of the park.

<Sahdahng Station's Casualty Monument>

Several hundred thousand people died during the Dungeon Shock. A lot more people died in the subsequent Dungeon Breaks, but if one had to pick the day when the most deaths had occurred, it was the day of the Dungeon Shock.

Woojin had disappeared on that day.

On that day, everyone who had used the subway system had died. A lot of parks were built near the stations since it was destroyed by the subsequent Dungeon Breaks.

Woojin wordlessly placed the flower in front of the monument then he poured out the alcohol. He kowtowed with a heavy heart. Lee-soogyong could only silently watch him as she shed her tears.

"Husband. Our Woojin has returned. Our Woojin....."

Woojin finished his kowtow then he hugged his mother tightly. His mother couldn't' control her emotions, so she cried endlessy.

'Father.....'

Woojin started thinking about his father, and his emotions turned melancholy. He hadn't had the time to spare since his mother had been struggling by herself, but he hadn't forgotten about his father.

Woojin missed his father. However, the ache he felt towards his mother and Sooah was larger. Maybe, the past 20 years had desensitized Woojin from death.

"Please tell me now."

"What do you mean?"

"Where and what have you been up to during that time?"

""

When he saw his mother's earnest face, Woojin struggled for a long time, but he decided to tell her the truth. However, he was mindful of the shock his mother would receive, so he tried to downplay the truth.

He had overcome countless near death experiences, and his hands snatched away

countless lives as he struggled fiercely to live.

There had been countless people afraid of him, and their gazes had been filled with fear.

He didn't want his mother to look at him like that.

"Uh, mmm. I think it was caused by the Dungeon Shock. I was summoned to a planet named Alphen."

If everything was like before, she wouldn't have believed him. However, the world had gone through a change, and the impossible had become possible.

"All right. What did you do over there?"

How should he explain this? Woojin thought about it, and he opened his mouth after he ordered his thoughts.

"It wasn't too dangerous. Ah. It was like a game. I leveled up some then I diligently hunted. I ordered around my summoned beings and I even participated in wars. However, mother shouldn't worry too much about it. I used my summoned beings, so I just watched from far away."

""

At Woojin's words, his mother's expression stiffened.

"Hai-eego.(TLN:SFX, I guess it is like saying OMG) I was so worried about you , but you came back after playing some game?"

Huh? That's not it.

Chapter 18 Their Circumstances (2)

"Aigo. You scoundrel! Mother worried about you so much"

As Woojin's back was being slapped, he pondered about what to do. Should he just tell her the truth?

"Haigo. You spent 5 years playing a game like an addict then you came back!!"

Huh huh. That wasn't it at all.

"Still, I'm thankful you returned in good health."

Woojin thought about telling her a little bit more of the truth to resolve the misunderstanding, but he abandoned that idea.

Who cares if she believed this or that?

I've returned home, and his mother was happy.

The tears flowing from his mother didn't have any resentment in it. If she held any resentment, it was towards the inhospitable years that had passed them by.

The hand that was hitting him started losing its strength, and her tear drops became thicker. Woojin cried with her.

He cried endlessly as he tried to shed the past 20 years.



Soo-ah's eyes turned round as she asked a question.

"Huh? Why is mother's eyes so red? Did you cry?"

"No. Why would mother cry?"

"No. You did cry. I know why mother cried."

"Why?"

"You are happy since mother will also be able to eat beef. Isn't that right?"

"Huh? Ho ho. You rascal. That's right. I'm so happy that your oppa bought us beef, so tears came out."

He could see a glint of tear on his mother's eyes. It wasn't from sadness. It was a teardrop of happiness. Woojin grinned slyly.

After they left the park, Woojin took Sooah to a meat grilling restaurant. It was rumored to be the best one in the neighborhood. The price was too expensive, so they had never been to the store before.

Chee-jee-jeek.

The beef made a delicious sound as Woojin cooked it, and he placed it on Sooah's dish. While Sooah was chewing on her food, she picked up a piece of meat, and she placed it on her mother's dish.

"Mom eat this. It's really delicious."

"Ok, ok. Since Sooah gave it to me, it is more delicious."

His mother ate a piece of meat then she made a happy smile. Sooah grinned as she looked at Woojin.

"I really like it since oppa came."

"Really? Do you like oppa since I bought you beef?"

"Yeah! I like it a lot. Minsoo always make fun of me. He says he always eat a lot of meat."

"Minsoo?"

"He is the richest in our class. That is why he brags about what he eats everyday when he comes to pre-school. He has a lot of toys. His father is a Roused, so he is really rich."

"Huh. Is that so? Don't be jealous of that. If Sooah wants something then just tell oppa. I'll buy it all for you. Oppa is also a Roused." (TLN:*cough* phrasing... maybe I should have gone for Enlightened as someone suggested)

"Wow. Really? Oppa is the best. I like oppa."

Sooah laughed merrily, but his mother looked like she hadn't let go of her worries.

"I'm still not sure you should do it."

"I'll be all right. I'm not that weak. Moreover, I won't do something that is too dangerous, so you don't have to worry about it."

"Oppa is in danger?"

"No. Oppa isn't in danger."

As he started to seriously cook some more meat, Woojin took a bottle of soju, and he poured it into his mother's glass. As if she was still sensitive to such actions, her eyes started to water.

"My son, who was in his 3rd year in high school, has come back as an adult. You are able to drink alcohol with your mother."

"I guess so, but this is the first time I'm having soju."

"Huh? This is the first time my son has drunk soju? You have to learn how to drink alcohol from an adult. Hurry up and take this glass."

This was the first time he had soju, but he had drunk a lot of other alcohol. Woojin took the soju cup with a pounding heart.

Ggol-gol.

"You father would have been proud if he saw you. Our son had already grown into an adult. You could drink alcohol with me, and you also bought us meat."

When they talked about his father, he became melancholy, but it couldn't even be compared to his mother's sadness. Woojin drank the entire cup of soju. There was a bite to it. It was quite good, but he was starting to feel the effect of the alcohol.

There was a bitter after taste, and it was quite delicious.

'This is pretty good.'

He didn't know about the other stuff, but the taste of alcohol here was preferable to the ones at the Planet Alphen. As time passes, he'll look fondly back at his experiences, but he couldn't do that yet.

He had escaped that hell hole, and he was very happy to be with his family now.

"Let us be happy, mother."

"Yes, my son."

"Me too, me too!"

In her ignorance, Sooah pushed her cup forward, but he poured her some soda. Then they made a toast.



His mother seemed to be drunk as she kept thanking him. He took the happily smiling Sooah and his mother back home before he headed out again.

He had withdrawn money from an ATM as they walked the street, and he placed \$1000 on top of the kitchen table.

He wanted to give her all the money he had earned, but he need it for seed money.

He needed a certain amount of money to pay for the entrance fee for the higher ranked Dungeons. It would allow him to quickly make money.

Woojin wanted to move to a decent house soon.

"Ha. This is great."

Woojin accompanied his mother and Sooah home. Then he decided to walk the night street. It was 7 o'clock. He taken Sooah to an early dinner, so it was still quite early.

This was the first time he drank soju, and the taste continued to linger. He wanted to

drink more, but he didn't want to get drunk by himself.

Twenty years had passed, so instead of thinking about his close friend's faces, the first face that came to mind was Do-jaemin's face.

"That guy. I have to repay his money."

He owed a lot of things to him. Woojin always settled his favors and grudges. He repaid good will, and he took revenge on those he had a grudge against.

Jaemin was a big help in learning about the changed earth.

Woojin visited a still open department store, and he entered to buy some presents. He wandered around in his thread-bare clothes, and he smelled of alcohol. Even seeing him like this, the kind salesclerk helped him out.

He went towards the cosmetic counter, and with the recommendation from the clerk, he purchased something a high school boy could use.

He spent a good amount of money, but he didn't regret it. While he carried the present, Woojin bought a whole chicken at a fried chicken restaurant. He bought a bottle of soju at the convenience store then he headed towards Jaemin's house.

There was no response as he pressed on the door bell, so he opened the panel to the door lock mechanism.

Dee Dee Dee, Dee! Dee! Dee!

"That bastard... He already changed his passcode?"

Woojin could have immediately called Jaemin, but it was about time for Jaemin to come home from his tutoring school. So he just waited.

Jaemin flinched in surprise when he saw Woojin standing in front of his front door.

"You are back?"

"Hy... hyung. You came?"

"That's right. Let's eat some chicken together."

Jaemin stealthily glance towards Woojin. He covered his finger with his other hand before he opened the front door.

Dee-ro-ri!

Woojin acted naturally as he spread the chicken and plates on top of the kitchen desk.

"Bring some glasses."

"Ah, wait a moment."

As soon as he took off his backpack, Jaemin brought back some cups. He felt uncomfortable since Woojin came to his house every night, but his mouth watered when he thought about the chicken.

Jaemin was at an age where he liked to eat. Jaemin tried to pour cola into his cup, but Woojin stopped him.

"Hey, you should have a cup."

"What? Hyung. I'm only a high school student?"

"Sssoop. You can have whatever hyung gives you..."

"Sh... should I?"

Woojin filled Jaemin's cup with soju, and he also filled his cup to the brim with soju. They didn't have a soju glass, so they poured it into cups. The soju bottle emptied just from filling two cups.

"Ok, let's drink."

"Yes..."

Woojin emptied the cup in a refreshing manner, and he bit into a chicken leg. Jaemin awkwardly turned his head, and he took a sip. Then his face scrunched up.

"Kkkkkk."

Bitter. It was bitter. Why would anyone drink something like this? Jaemin put a chicken

wing in his mouth as he asked a question.

"Was your visit to the dungeons successful?"

"Of course. Hey, I got you a present."

Jaemin opened the shopping bag with a confused face. When he opened it, he saw a bottle of cologne. When he saw the brand, it was a very pricey item.

"Hy... hyung?"

"Stop being surprised, you little rascal. This is the money I borrowed from you."

Woojin took out \$500 from his wallet. Jaemin's eyes became round.

"This is too much. You only have to give me what you borrowed. No. To tell you the truth, I don't want it. Hyung has already done too much for me."

Yes. A person should repay kindness. Woojin nodded his head with a satisfied expression.

"So, is that why you changed the house's pass code?."

"T, that is..."

Woojin grinned when he saw the flustered Jaemin.

"The rest is rent fee on top of the borrowed money."

Uh? Does this mean he wants to continue to stay here?

Jaemin couldn't believe his ears.

Chapter 19 Justified Misunderstanding (1)

"Hyung. Didn't you meet your mother?"

"Shit. My house is too small. I'll inconvenience you until I buy a house..."

Even though the price of land in Seoul had dropped, it was still an unthinkable amount of money for a normal person like Jaemin. He is asking to live here, and mooch off of him until he could by a house?

Jaemin had a complicated expression. Woojin cackled as he looked at Jaemin.

"It won't take long for me to leave, so don't worry about it. Hyung made 1300 today. Moreover, I'll get an additional 400 soon."

"That... that isn't it. My noonah comes here on the weekends." (TLN: male->older sister = noonah female->older sister = unni)

"Ah, is that so?"

"I'll call her tomorrow. Oh yea. Does hyung know my noonah? My noonah recognized hyung's name."

"Uh? What's your noonah's name?"

"Her name is Do-jiwon."

Woojin thought about the name, Do-jiwon, and his eyes became wide when it came to him.

"Do-jiwon? The third class' Jun-jihyun?"

"Mmmm. She's my sister, so it's a little bit weird to talk about her like this. However, she used to be call that."

"Huh huh. You are Jiwon's little brother?"

Woojin looked over Do-jaemin, and he nodded his head. He thought this guy looked handsome, and now he found out Do-jiwon was his noonah.

They must have been born with superior genes as both siblings had good looks. It had been twenty years, but Woojin still remembered Do-jiwon.

She used to be famous for being the prettiest in the entire school. Woojin had also had a crush on Jiwon, but he had been too shy...

If he met her right now, he would have...

"Where does your noonah live for her only visit on the weekends?"

"She's at a factory."

"What? A factory? Do-jiwon is? If she needed money then she should have become a celebrity instead."

Woojin couldn't imagine Jiwon in a factory setting, so he turned his head in confusion. Jaemin replied with a slightly dark face.

"There... there was an incident. Anyways, hyung switched your handphone?"

"Uh. I swapped it on the way back."

"Wow. This is a really expensive one. Can I touch it once?"

"Is that so? Is it a good one?"

"Hul. This is a Crazy Red."

"Crazy Red?"

"It uses Blood stone technology, so it is really expensive. Hyung must have made a lot of money?"

Blood stones was a new material with an enormous amount of energy within it. After the end of a 5 year research, the technology was adopted for use, and it was slowly being used in actual objects now.

The battery technology using the Blood stones were a hot issue in the IT market.

"He exchanged it for free."

"What? This was free?"

"Well, it was an event. An event."

It was a once in a life time even where the salesman's life was on the line.

"Hul. You are lucky. This is really expensive."

It seemed the phone salesman had a conscience. Woojin let go of the little ball of grudge he held against him.

Jaemin was more excited than the owner of the phone. He spent a while explaining to him about the new functions when a message came.

Ddrring.

Jaemin looked at the line on top of the screen, and his eyes widened when he read the content.

<xxBank>

2015. 9. 13. 21:13

Deposit 40,000

Total 51,230

xxBank Hong Sunggoo

"Huh. How many 0s are there?"

Jaemin looked at the figure then he looked at Woojin. It said he was a Rank F on his Roused card yet he was able to earn \$13,000 in one day and now he earned an additional \$40,000.

Jaemin couldn't help but look at Woojin in a different light.

"Hy... hyung. You are very capable."

Woojin snatched his handphone back, and he frowned.

"That bastard. I told his to send 4 bills."

Woojin immediately gave him a call.

[The amount is getting on my nerve. It is getting on my nerve.]

Before the single ring could pass, Sunggo picked up his phone.

[He... hello? Hyung. Did you check the deposit?]

"Hey, ass-hole. Do you think I'm a beggar? Didn't I tell you to send just 4 bills? What is this?"

[Of course. When you said 4 bills, you meant that 4 bills.]

As if he had put his hand over the receiver, the sound was muffled. However, Woojin had a sensitive hearing, so he frowned when he heard it.

"What are you saying?"

[Hy... hyung-nim. I want to talk to you face to face. Please tell me your address.]

"What? Why do you want to find me?"

[I'll explain it once I get there. Where are you, hyung-nim?]

Sunggoo's voice sounded desperate, so Woojin gave him the address in confusion.

[There is a large cafe called Angle Angel near there. I'll be there in 10 minutes.]

Sunggoo hurriedly ended the call. At Sunggoo's reaction, Woojin stared at his handphone.

"That bastard. What's up with him?"

If Sunggoo had just told him his account number, he would have returned the \$36,000, so why does he want to meet up?

"Since we are out of alcohol, I'll briefly head out to buy some. Meanwhile, you eat the chicken."

"Yes, hyung."

"Change the front door's password to the original one."

"...Yes."

Woojin decided he would buy more of the depleted soju, then he would meet Sunggoo and give him back his money. Jaemin was left alone, and he took another sip of the soju. He frowned.

"Kkkkk. Why do people drink this?"

He popped open a cola then he washed the flavor out of his mouth. Then he started playing with his hand phone out of boredom.

"This should be expensive."

Jaemin checked the cologne's brand, and his mouth dropped open when he searched for the model.

'Two... two hundred dollars?'

The price was too high for a high school student to use it without feeling a sense of burden. Moreover, he rarely used cologne. Maybe, if he smoked then he would have.

"I guess h... hyung spends based on his emotions? He is spending recklessly since he making money."

His mood became restless when he saw the \$500 given to him by Woojin. His noonah was probably working hard at the factory right now, but her annual income was less than the \$53,000 Woojin made in a single day.

Jaemin was bored waiting for Woojin to return, so he accessed an online community he frequented. Then he wrote a post.

[Brothers. I got a perfume for a present. About 3 days ago, I met an uncle by coincidence, and I let him sleep in my rented room for a day. He bought me a cologne and he also gave me \$500. Isn't it a real windfall? Currently, I'm eating chicken and alcohol. Hyung went out to buy more alcohol since we are out. He has a lot of money. ??? Let me boast about my present ???]

Jaemin uploaded a picture of the cologne as proof then he waited for the reaction from other people.

Ddring, ddring.

The replies were explosive.

(TLN: they are speaking in message board style. Sometimes they aren't even talking in full sentences.)

[???. Nim. Be careful of your backside.] (TLN: XXX-nim. It is an honorific, but shortened to Nim here.)

[Perfume, rented room, success.]

? [Today real shared room ???]

? [???? This hyung will move to your next door neighborhood.]

[He isn't getting alcohol. He probably went to get condoms.]

?[Stupid. He won't get pregnant so why buy condoms.]

?[What, stupid. Then enema.]

?[????? He said enema.]

[Nim, It isn't too late. Throw away your rented room, and guard your behind.]

[So who will be the bottom?]

[?? The person who paid will be the top.]

[Congratulation on your anal's grand opening!]

?[What is anal?]

?[Your asshole, you stupid Mofo.]

[Request butt. Monitor ready in front.]

Jaemin frowned.

"Tsk tsk. If they are jealous then they should just say so. Why do a gay ad lib?"

Jaemin continued to read the posts being posted, and he glanced at the front door. Mmm, he wouldn't do that.

He won't.

The delicious chicken suddenly tasted like he was chewing on rubber. Is he deluding himself...

Ah, he probably won't.

Chapter 20 Justified Misunderstanding (2)

Hong-songgoo let out a sigh after he ended the phone call.

"The 4 bills was actually \$400,000."

It's no wonder why since he thought \$20,000 was a bit cheap for saving someone's life. He really had been underestimating the price of his life too much.

"Even someone like me is worth \$200,000."

He had been saved twice, so it was 4 bills. It was \$400,000.

"Ha, this isn't how I should be spending my time."

Sunggoo let out a sigh. It had been only 2 months since he had become a Roused. He had worked tirelessly during that time, but he had been only earned around \$30,000. Even that wasn't enough, so he had to to borrow money from all around. How was he suddenly going to come up with a large sum of \$360,000?

"I guess this is the only way."

He had prepared this just in case. Sunggoo gathered a bundle of documents then he went outside to catch a taxi.

When he arrived near the Sadahng station, he hurriedly entered a large cafe named Angel Angel. He looked around, and he was able to find Woojin sitting near a corner.

"Hyung-him. How are you doing?"

The two of them had left the dungeon, and they had went their own ways around lunch. This occurred only couple hours ago, so why was he was asking how he was doing?

"You came? So, why did you insist on coming here yourself?"

"It was the right thing for me to do to come here."

"That's all right. Just leave after you give me your account number."

"Huh-ook."

Sunggoo's face turned pale from fright. Is he trying to return his money to him? Doesn't that mean he didn't need his money, and Woojin wanted to kill him?

Sunggoo thought about how Woojin looked as he killed Bae-dohsoo and his party members without any hesitation. It happened only couple hours ago, so he was still shocked by that event.

Sunggoo immediately got on his knees.

"Hyung-nim. Please spare my life."

"Huh? Why are you being like this?"

"I promise I'll pay back all the money I am short on. Just give me a little bit more time."

Sunggoo's reaction drew the attention from the people in the surrounding.

"What? What's going on? Is he a gangster?"

"It looks like he took out a private loan."

"Tsk tsk. He must have took out a private loan then he must have used it all."

Woojin frowned when he heard the murmurs coming from the surround people. What was he trying to accomplish by gaining the attention of his surrounding? Woojin's voice was filled with irritation.

"If you don't want die, then why don't you have a seat?"

"Yes, sir!"

Sunggoo immediately sat across Woojin.

"Hyung-nim. I have no way of gathering \$400,000 right now. If you give me some time,

I promise I'll come through." "\$400.000?" "Yes, sir." "Ha-ah..." Woojin leaned back against his chair as he sighed. His fingers rhythmically beat against the armrests. Ddok, ddok. Sunggoo swallowed dryly to the beat. Woojin frowned at Sunggoo, who sat there like a dog wanting to poop. He had wanted \$4,000, so he asked Sunggoo to send 4 bills. However, he must have misunderstood it as \$40,000. If that wasn't enough, he had further misunderstood, and now he he was under the impression that he owed Woojin \$400,000 now. 'Kids these days think in large scales.' How could someone misunderstand 1 bill as \$10,000 or \$100,000? It seemed he had thoroughly misunderstood his situation. If he was under a misunderstanding, then of course he would...

"How long do you want me to wait for you?"

...have to take advantage of the misunderstanding.

Sunggoo spoke rapidly. He spoke so fast that one would think he had a talent for talking.

"Please look here."

Woojin's forehead furrowed when he picked up the paper documents pushed forward by Sunggoo.

<Improvement of the Roused Ability and the Corresponding Income Report.>

When his ability manifested, Sunggoo had recorded how much he had earned on the first day he became a Roused. As he became familiar with his ability, his ability slowly evolved, and his income had increased steadily.

He even made a graph to accompany the numbers. At the bottom, he even wrote down the Dungeons he had attempted, and there was a detailed count on how many monsters he had face.

This was basically Sunggoo's own portfolio.

"I earned \$30,000 during the two months. From here on out, my income will continue to increase, and I will be able to obtain the rest of the money soon."

"How long?"

"I guarantee I will have it within 25 months."

"Isn't that too long?"

At Woojin's pessimistic words, Sunggoo replied quickly.

When did he become so deft at wheeling-and-dealing? It felt like he had awoken to another taken when facing with a situation where his life was on the line.

"This is why I thought of a second method."

< Dungeon Attack Business Plan.>

Woojin frowned as he threw the documents on the table.

"Why don't we just talk?"

Sunggoo immediately flapped his tongue.

"With hyung-nim's abilities, you will be able to attack a higher dungeon than the 1 star and 2 star dungeons. Moreover, you will be able to earn much more revenue per Dungeon Attack. If you form a party with me, I'll point out the highly profitable Dungeons, and I'll be able to repay the \$400,000 in no time."

From what Sunggoo observed, Woojin was most definitely not a Rank F on his Roused Rankings. He was capable of soloing a 2 star Dungeon, so how could he be a Rank F?

Anyways, the profit from the higher ranked Dungeons were fundamentally on a different level. One could earn \$400,000 in no time.

For Sunggoo, this would be the best method for him. He wouldn't dare attempt a high rank Dungeon by himself, but it was possible with Woojin by his side.

He just had one problem he had to resolve.

"Does that mean you want to comfortably mooch off of me?

"No. This is why I thought up a third plan."

Sunggoo started laying out his third plan as if nothing had happened.

"During that period, I will work as hyung-nim's manager."

"Manager?"

"Yes. All Roused with a slightly higher rank travels with one. There is even a separate supporting department for them at the Guilds. The manager takes care of duties like selecting the Dungeons, making reservations, selling the bloodstones and more. The manager even drives the Roused around."

"So they are basically servants."

Huh? He is speaking the truth, but why do I have such an unpleasant feeling?

"Your analysis is correct, hyung-nim..."

Woojin had an amused expression when he heard Sunggoo's words.

Managers basically did the same work as a celebrity's manger. It wasn't a bad proposal for Woojin.

"Since you don't have the money, you want to work it off with your body."

Ah, he was correct.

"You are spot on, hyung-nim."

Woojin thought for a moment before he opened his mouth.

"All right. For how long?"

"Hyung-nim should decide."

"One year. I would feel a little bit bad if you worked for free, so I'll give you a little bit of money on the side."

Sunggoo abruptly stood up from his seat.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. Hyung-him."

"Uh-ooh. No, I'm the one who should be thanking you."

He could have just taken back the \$36,000 yet he wanted to live the life of a servant.



Jaemin woke up with a burning thirst in his throat.

"Ooh-ook."

He looked around his surrounding with a dizzy head. He was on his bed.

Bits of his memories started to piece itself together, and his memories slowly came back to him.

He had waited a long time for Woojin, who had gone out to buy more alcohol. He started taking sips from his soju cup, and he had fallen asleep on the table...

So, why was he in his bed?

"Huk!"

He still had his shirt on. Jaemin hurriedly peeked underneath his blanket. He still had his pants on. He unnecessarily started touching his butt, but he didn't feel any pain.

"Whew."

Thank you. Our Father, who art in heaven... Ah...

When his nervousness melted away, he tried to get up since he had to pee. This was when he saw Woojin lying on top of a blanket placed on the floor.

He saw two bottles of soju on the desk, so it seemed he had fallen asleep after drinking by himself.

"I guess he really is a kind hyung."

Jaemin felt relieved. As he was about to head towards the restroom, Woojin let out a moan.

"Ooh ooh ooh."

Woojin had curled up, and his body was shaking.

"Is... is he sick?"

Jaemin stretched out his hand to touch the curled up Woojin. Before his hand could make contact, he felt a stinging shock on his hand.

"Aht. That stings."

Jaemin was so surprised that he sat back down on his bed. Maybe it was the shock, but he started seeing a hallucination.

Gray objects were wrapped around Woojin, and they were slowly swimming around him. Some were black, but none of them had a defined form.

Jaemin's eyes were out of focus, and he could only look on dumbly.

Ghost? A sprite? Or a hallucination?

He felt a thick hatred and resentment towards life. No, it was the source of evil.

Instinctual fear.

Jaemin's dilated eyes flipped into his head, and he fainted on to his bed.

"Ooh ooh ooh."

Woojin let out a moan, and his body was drenched in cold sweat. His face was screwed up as if he was in pain. It looked as if he was possessed by an evil spirit.

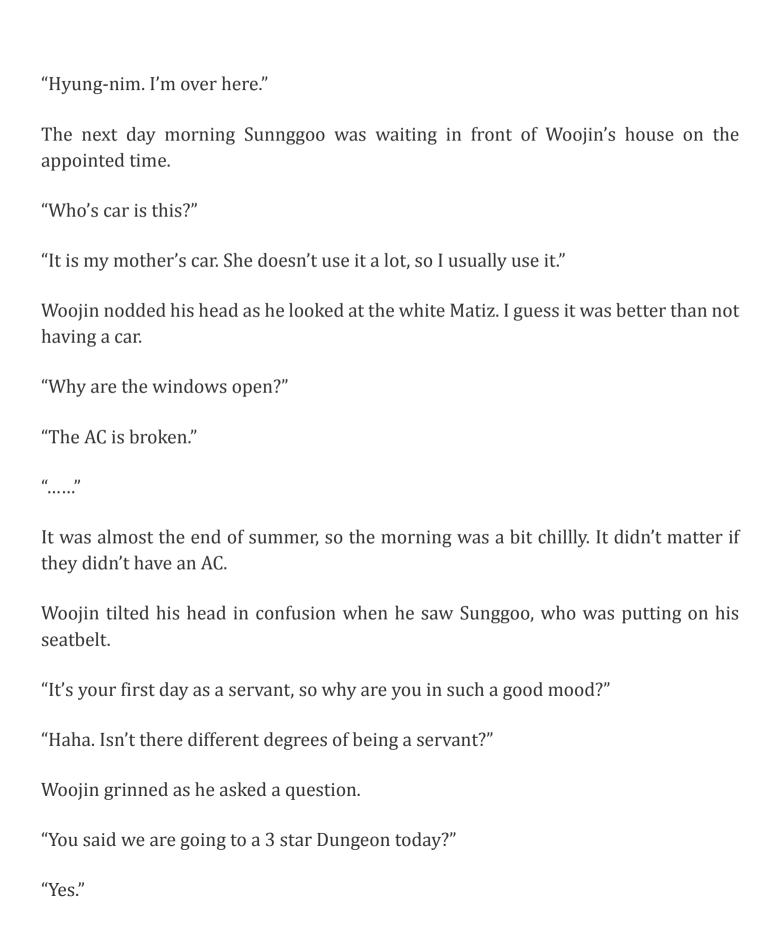
Necromancer.

He who oppose the laws of nature. He who denies death.

Eventually, he who become tormented by death's curse.

Woojin continued to moan.

Chapter 21 3Star Dungeon



"What comes out over there?"

"Rakwi comes out." (TLN: bakwi is cockroach in korean. The author basically switch b with an r)

Rakwis were basically large cockroaches. That's it. It wasn't as if the drop rate for the bloodstones were any better, but there was a large population of this monster in this dungeon. This is why this Dungeon contained a lot of bloodstones.

Sunggoo gave a briefing about the Dungeon, while he drove.

"The Maebong Staion's third exit Dungeon has a maximum limit of 10 party members, and the entrance fee is \$300."

"It's damn expensive."

If one person wanted to use the Dungeon, then one would have to pay \$3,000 for the entrance fee.

"It can't be helped. Moreover, there are a lot of them, and the Return Stone doesn't drop until all of the Rakwis are killed. Normally, it takes around 2 hours to attack this Dungeon. If one is unlucky, it takes 3 hours."

Woojin nodded his head.

"You found the Dungeon to my exact requirement."

The Maebong Station's third exit was chosen as their next target, but it wasn't Sunggoo's idea. Woojin ordered him to find a Dungeon that fit a single criteria.

Numerous monsters had to be summoned.

He was told to search for a Dungeon based on the monster regeneration rate instead of profit. He felt doubt, but he had worked hard to find it. Amongst all of the 3 star Dungeons, this place regenerated the most monsters.

There were way less cars on the road compared to Woojin's memory. It reminded him of the traffic he saw on the holidays. As expected, a parking lot was provided near the vicinity of the subway station. (TLN: Koreans don't get a lot of vacations, so they all head out to beach/mountain on the holidays. Therefore, you see less traffic in the city

during holidays.)

The biggest change that had happened to Seoul in the past 5 years was the subway stations. It used to be a method of travel one used to get to work, but now it became a place of work. Dungeon businesses brought in the biggest revenue for Seoul.

"Even the parking fee is damn expensive."

Sunggoo laughed lightly when he heard Woojin's complaint.

"I think you'll be very surprised once you balance your account after attacking this Dungeon. There is a vast difference between a 2 star and a 3 star Dungeon.

"Well, we'll know once we get there."

Money was important to Woojin. He needed a big house, so he could live with his family. At the very least, he wanted to be able to sleep in a different room where he could fall asleep in a defenseless state.

It was a Dungeon where the profit was great, so the entrance fee was expensive, and there were many people in queue. One could only make appointments for 4 star Dungeons or higher.

They also restricted the Roused, who were below Rank D, from even attempting the 4 star Dungeon. A mule like Sunggoo could probably squeeze in, but a Rank D Roused won't even be able to become a Leader for a party when attempting a 4 star Dungeon.

Until the 3 star Dungeons, there were no restriction. One didn't need to make an appointment. The order of the Dungeon attempt was basically a first come, first served basis.

This was why the queue time was longer compared to the time it took to complete 1 star or 2 star Dungeons. However, it wasn't so for this 3 star Dungeon.

They had come early in the morning, so there were only two teams in front of them.

Even if everyone took 2 hours, they would have to wait 4 hours.

"Hyung-nim should go rest in a cafe then return later."

One of the main duty of a manager was staying in line as a proxy. Woojin looked around the surrounding, and he could see cafes and other convenient facilities. It made him doubt whether the development area around a subway station was really dangerous.

It seemed the resident area moved farther away, but the commercial facilities seemed more developed here.

Moreover, the Dungeon was always open. The Roused converged here 24/7 to attack the Dungeon. Of course, a location where a lot of people gathered would flourish.

"It's ok. I'll wait with you."

"I'm moved, hyung-nim."

Sunggoo's flattery came out almost automatically. He had also studied on his own, so he could talk continuously about what he knew about the Roused, their society, and the different types of Dungeons. He didn't want Woojin to get bored.

Pew, Pew, Pangya!

Woojin found out why the Crazy Red was a popular smart phone amongst the Roused. The sturdiness of its build didn't even need to be explained. It was also able to run for half a month without one needing to charge it. The insane battery allowed one not to be bored during the down times.

Woojin waited 5 hours to enter the Dungeon.

Woojin paid \$12,000. He paid the cost for using the Dungeon for 4 hours.

Sunggoo looked at Woojin, and he energetically gave a fighting pose. A stocky guy like him was doing all he can to act cute, and it made him look at Sunggoo with pity now.

"Hyung-nim. Fighting!"

"You have to go too, you dork."

"I, I have to?"

"Who's going to excavate the bloodstones?"

"I'm moved, hyung-nim."

Sunggoo let out a soulless exclamation, then he quickly followed behind Woojin.

"I thought you purposely suggested to become my servant, so you could follow me around."

""

When there was no answer, Woojin turned to look at him. Sunggoo had an expression of guilt.

"You... you are quite perceptive."

It seemed flattery came naturally to him now. Woojin smirked.

"Dude. Do it in moderation. Moreover, just call me hyung."

"Yes, hyung."

Life was a battle field.

Sunggoo was at fault for overreacting and adding the extra zeros to the \$4,000. Woojin didn't feel the need to take back what he had offered.

He wasn't Sunggoo's parent or guardian.

Free money was free money.

However, if he still insisted on becoming his underling, he would repay him back the money he lost. As a Necromancer who had reached the pinnacle, Woojin had at least that much generosity.

"Be a good guide. Do my biddings well. I'm not going to work you without giving any compensations. After we finish this Dungeon, you can have 10% of the profit."

It was a 9:1 ratio. It was a unreasonable number, but Sunggoo's face was filled with joy. For him, the very act of attempting a 3 star Dungeon was difficult. Even if it was only 10%, it would still be more than he could make from attacking 1 Star Dungeons several times. He would be able to get his hand on a large sum of money.

"Thank you very much, hyung."

Sunggoo really felt thankful towards him.

Woojin seemed to prefer solo play, but it seemed he would be able to enter with him. He would be able to be carried by Woojin as his manager. He'll be able to experience a 3 star Dungeon and use his ability in relative safety.

He probably be able to train and practice his ability. It might even evolve. Sunggoo was aiming to become a high ranked Roused, so this was a opportunity of a lifetime.

Woojin knew all about this yet he acted like he had been fooled, so Sunggoo felt thankful towards him.

"Let's go. Time is gold."

"Yes, sir!"

Woojin was thankful towards Sunggoo, who had become a servant for just \$4,000.

Level up!

The moment Woojin gained another level he shook his head in a fierce manner

"There are frighteningly a lot of them."

The floor was jam-packed with Rakwi corpses. These bastards barreled towards any life form in their vicinity. They had the tendency of using their number as an advantage.

One could build a solid defense against them or one could kill them faster than they could gather. These were the only methods of dealing with them.

Woojin's method was to use both.

"You dare use your number against me?"

"Kekeke."

He fought number with number.

Woojin was surrounded by 19 Skeleton Soldiers. This was possible, because every time he leveled up he put all his Stat Points into Control.

Woojin used his Search magic. When he felt magic within the Rakwi's corpses, he sprayed red paint on them. There were so many of them that it took a lot of time to tag them with paint.

While he was doing this, Sunggoo came down the stairs.

"Hyung-him! I've excavated them all."

Sunggoo was hauling a bag as he descended, and he was soaked in sweat. He hadn't even used a single fireball since he had entered the Dungeon. The only thing he did was to excavate the bloodstones from the field of corpses left behind by Woojin.

Woojin picked out which monsters had bloodstones, so he didn't have to open up an empty corpse. However, there were still too many of them.

Woojin's hunting speed was so fast that Sunggoo fell behind even though he only had to extract the bloodstones.

"Uh. You've done well. Now keep up the good work."

"Huk."

Sunggo saw the terrible spectacle created by Woojin on the last floor. He sucked in a sharp breath. At a glance, he could see couple hundred corpses. Amongst all of them, there were over 60 corpses tagged with spray paint.

'How... how much money is this?'

The drop rate couldn't be compared to the 2 star Dungeons. Sunggoo put down the full bag, then he took out a new bag.

"Aigo. I guess I'll take a little break."

Woojin freed himself from the field of corpses, then he sat on a bench.

The Return Stone would come out from the body of the last Rakwi he killed. While Sunggoo excavated the bloodstones, he sat on one side as he opened his character window. He put all the bonus points he earned from the level-ups to Control.

The number reached 24. He could summon 5 additional Skeleton Soldiers.

'I'm level 6 now.'

Woojin looked through all the skills he could learn at lvl 6. He was able to learn low ranked attack spells like making a small flame or a fist made out of water. Everything else had a class restriction.

Woojin purchased all the important magics under the low ranked magic. The cost was between 10 to 30 Achievement Points each. These weak magics were progressively unusable against the monsters he would face, but these magics weren't only used in hunting monsters.

They had many practical uses in real life, so he purchased and learned them.

'This cost 200 points.'

<Skeleton Magician Summon>

[Restriction : Level 10, Magic 20]

Corpses or bones are used as sacrifice to summon a [Strength 5 Agility 5 Health 5 Magic 5] Skeleton Magician. Range is increased when strength increases. Shooting Rate is increased when Agility increases. Attack power is increased as Magic is increased.

Magic Consumption : 1, Required Control : 1

Every Rakwi gave him 3 Achievement Points. There were too many Rakwis, so he had a lot of Achievement Points to spare. He was able to buy Skill Books, but he couldn't learn it since they had level restrictions.

From level 1 to level 9, one didn't have a class. The low ranked skills learned during this period didn't have any class restrictions, and most of them could be purchased with relatively low Achievement Points. However, once one reaches level 10, one would develop a class, and most of the Skills became expensive.

'Now that I think about it I should work on my Stats a little bit.'

There were couple ways to raise one's Stat. When one level up, one gets bonus stats, and as the name indicates it was a bonus.

There were two other methods if one excluded the level up.

First method was to train repeatedly to increase one's stat. However, this method wasn't used often since the increase was minimal compared to the time spent. If one did it without having much expectation, then one could increase one stat at a time.

The second method was to use drugs.

There were reinforcement drugs that were able to give a temporary stat boost, but there were also magic medicines that could permanently increase certain stats.

Woojin frowned as he searched through the Achievement Point Store. There were reinforcement drugs that gave +1 stat points, but they cost 2000 points.

It was too expensive for him to purchase it for consumption. However, it wasn't as if he didn't gain anything.

<Recipe - Orc Tendon Soup>

Ingredient: Orc Tendon 3, Drabbit Tail 5, Rat fang 2

Effect : Strength + 2

He thought he did pretty well by using 150 of his Achievement points to purchase this recipe. The composition method was simple. He just had to used his advanced skill, Combination Box.

"It is all done, hyung-nim. I also found the Return Stone."

Woojin grinned as he looked at the fat bags filled with bloodstones. At the very least, there were about 5 times more bloodstones compared to the previous 2 star Dungeon. Also, didn't Sunggoo say the bloodstones became denser and more expensive as the Dungeon's rank increased?

"How many minutes had passed?"

"It's been 27 minutes."

Woojin stood up as he laughed.

"We'll run it 7 more times. Hurry up, and gather everything."

"Huk. I understand."

The Skeleton Soldiers approached them, and they picked up the bags. Woojin and Sunggoo wanted to save time, so they practically ran towards the entrance.

The public employee assigned to this place by the Dungeon Management Bureau was surprised when they came out much earlier than expected.

When two Rank F Roused attempted the 3 star Dungeon that had a maximum capacity of 10 party members, he thought their actions were ill advised. However, it seemed he was wrong.

"Even if you... you cleared it before the time ran out, we won't refund the entrance fee."

Woojin smirked at the public employee's words.

"I'm going to keep attempting the Dungeon within the time limit, so don't worry about it."

"What?"

"I don't have time, so don't ask me any questions."

Woojin and Sunggoo grabbed the bags then they ran towards the Bloodstone exchange store. They converted it all to cash.

\$54,300.

He used simple calculations to determine he could earn almost \$400,000 in a day. Sunggoo would receive 10% of that figure, so he had an expression of disbelief on his face.

'\$5,430.'

This was the money he had earned in 30 minutes. If one joined a full normal party attacking a 3 star Dungeon, 1 share of the profit would be equivalent to this.

However, Sunggoo wasn't skill enough to attempt a 3 star or even a 2 star Dungeon.

"J... jackpot, hyung-nim."

"You are calling me hyung-nim again?"

"Hyung-nim is too great. I wouldn't dare call you hyung."

Woojin smirked at his silly words.

"We still have 7 runs left."

If they went in 7 more times, then his share would be around \$40,000. He had diligently went around 1 star Dungeons for 2 whole month yet he only made \$30,000. Now he would make \$40,000 in a day.

"Run."

"Yes, sir!"

Sunggoo and Woojin quickly ran towards the Dungeon.

Chapter 22 Dual Class

"Huk, huk. Do you think we can rest a little bit, hyung-nim?"

For the most part, Woojin didn't directly participate in battle. The Rakwis were considered to be a 3 star monster, because there were a frighteningly a lot of them.

It was so bad that a fight with the Rakwis wasn't considered to be a fight against a monster. It was a fight against oneself. Everything ended the moment one became tired.

The Skeleton Soldiers never got tired, and he just had to summon a new one when one was destroyed.

Moreover, the Skeleton Soldiers' appearance had gone through a change. The Skeleton Soldier's Skill Level had risen from 1 to 10 and they had evolved.

The Skeleton Soldier were made out out bones, so its emaciated body looked quite brittle. However, they now wore shoulder and chest armor. They also carried a small shield on one hand.

The knives still looked very dull, but it had become larger and more pointy. They also wore a helmet on their heads.

As one uses more of one's skill, the Skill level increases. It can also be raised using the help of an item or one could invest one's bonus point into it. These were the only methods.

His hunting speed was becoming faster, and he was having an easier time. The problem was Sunggoo's stamina.

He was on the bloodstone duty for 3 hours, and he hadn't been able to take a single break. Woojin's hunting speed was so fast that Sunggoo didn't have time to take a break. Woojin had run out of spray paint, but it seemed he had learned a Marking magic. He used it to mark the monsters containing the bloodstones.

He kept showing his admiration as he watched Woojin's endless versatility.

Eventually, Sunggoo couldn't help it as his stamina flagged.

"All right. Let's rest for a moment."

Sunggoo let out a groan, and Woojin plopped himself on the floor. Sunggoo sat next to him, and he took out a bottled water from his bag. He gave it to Woojin first.

Sunggoo was drenched in sweat and he had a tired expression on his face. However, he still gave Woojin the water first. Woojin grinned.

"Dude. You are going to live a long life."

"What?"

"I like the cut of your jib."

Woojin drank a gulp of water then he handed it to Sunggoo. Sunggoo kept gulping down the water like a man who had come across an oasis in the desert.

"Hyahh."

It felt like the water was being absorbed into his bones. Sunggoo's body shook then he relaxed.

"How much time do we have left?"

"We have 1 hour and 12 minutes..."

As time passed, their pace had increased. They had already completed the Dungeon 6 times before 3 hours had passed.

"The adjust amount is... I think it's over \$300,000? We should almost have \$400,000?"

The Bloodstones Exchange store took a fixed amount from the final figure to give a fee to the first Roused, who defeated the Dungeon. The association also took a portion, but the rest was automatically deposited into Roused Registration account.

As Woojin looked at the knocked-down Sunggoo, he pondered over an idea.

He would be able to purchase a decent house for Sooah and his mother with \$300,000. Money was basically the means to an end. It was a tool to get what he want, but the money itself wasn't his goal.

'I'll give up on the bloodstones.'

Woojin stood up from his seat.

Sunggoo followed his example, and he also got up.

"Ooh-ook."

"Hey, Sunggoo."

"Yes, hyung-nim."

"The bloodstone we excavate from now on is all yours."

"What?"

"I'll mark it for you, so do your best in excavating it."

"H... hyung-nim?"

"Keep up the good work."

Woojin almost ran as he led the Skeletons downstair.

"Well, should I record my lap time?"

"Kekeke."

Sunggoo blankly glanced down towards the stairway where Woojin had disappeared to.

"Hy... hyung-nim?"

If he excavated all the bloodstones before Woojin could end his hunt, he would be able to make around \$50,000. He didn't care about the price of his life right now. The amount of money he was able to make was contingent on how much he moved. He

was tired for only a moment.

"Ooh-oh-oh!"

Before the Marking magic could disappear, he hurriedly swung his short sword.

After Sunggoo entered the Dungeon, he started moving like a madman. He tried to close the distance between Woojin, and he excavated the bloodstones from the marked Rakwi's corpses. He had repeated this action for several hours, so he had already become an expert in cracking open the Rakwi's head.

However, Woojin's hunting speed was too fast. Sunggoo was able to clear only one floor before Woojin was coming back up with the Return Stone.

'Ah ah, my money!'

When he thought about the marked Rakwi corpses below, he wanted to pound against the floor. However, he couldn't do anything about it. He followed Woojin out of the Dungeon to enter it again.

There was 20 minutes left before his 4 hour of using the Dungeon came to an end. Before Woojin could step on to the last floor, he stopped walking.

<Level up!>

< You have reached level 10. You class is being sorted.>

Woojin was taken aback. He tilted his head in confusion.

"Class?"

Originally, one would have to choose one's class at level 10. He had chosen to become a Necromancer on Planet Alphen. When he was transferred here, he had already chosen the Necromancer class...

He thought hard as he looked at the window that popped up in front of his eyes.

< You Movement Pattern is being analyzed.>

<Your class is being selected.>

<Magician><Elementalist><Warrior><Priest><Trapper>...

Woojin frowned when an endless banquet of classes popped up. He had already experienced this when he reached level 10 on the Alphen Planet. The problem was he already had a class.

"Does this mean I can have a Dual Class?"

He thought hard on it, but that was only answer that came to him.

<The 'Warrior' class was chosen.>

< For class designation reward, you will be given a Warrior's weapon.>

Woojin let out a sigh.

"Doesn't this put me in a tough spot?"

His skills and stats were not connected to each other. He had some skills where he needed magic, and some skills required vitality.

Necromancer was a class that specialized in magic and control.

If he had become a Magician then there were a certain amount of overlap in skills. However, when one reaches level 10, one's class is determined by one's movement pattern.

If he knew there was a Dual Class, then he would have only used magic from level 1. He wouldn't have swung his clawed hammer.

"Well, I can't do anything about it."

He'll probably run out of stat points, but he had planned on using the bonus points to focus on his Necromancy. The Warrior class was just a throw-in.

He decided to think of it like that.

He'll just think of his main weapon as back up weapon.

He'll have to do his best to raise his stat using liquid drugs or magic drugs. As he

organized his thoughts, he quickly threw away any regret.

"The reward."

Woojin immediately opened his inventory.

He was curious as to what he received as bonus reward when his class was chosen.

The Warrior's bonus reward was a weapon. He also received a Summoning Demon for when he was a Necromancer, and it was capable of growth.

"Huh? There are two of them?"

<Warrior's Bonus - Warrior's Weapon>

<Necromancer's Bonus - Sealed Demon Stone.>

Woojin grinned.

"Dual class... I guess it isn't so bad?"

Woojin took out the Warrior's bonus reward.

Pah-paht.

A blue box appeared. As the light dispersed, a rod was pushed towards him. It was curved like a cane. It looked to be a magician's staff, but the composition was very different from a normal staff.

"It... it's a steel pipe?"

The staff was made out of steel, and it looked like the steel claw hammer. The battles up until now must have influenced its appearance.

<Steel Staff>

A warrior's weapon was basically one's best friend, and they are akin to one's life. The Warrior's weapon grew alongside the user. It is always with you, and it is always ready to come out at your beck and call.

Effect : Strength +5, Durability Recovery(Dispelled State)

Skill: Summon, Dispel

Woojin held the Steel Staff in one hand, and he thought about dispelling it. As soon as he thought about it, it disappeared.

"Summon."

Pa-paht.

It suddenly appeared in mid-air. Woojin grabbed it in his hand, and he had a satisfied smile on his face.

"This isn't so bad?"

He obtained a weapon he could pull out at any moment, so it was a good thing. Moreover, the weapon was able to evolve. The was an infinite possibility in how it would advance. It also didn't take up any space in his inventory, so it was great.

Woojin's heart fluttered a little bit as he took out the Sealed Demon Stone.

"I wonder which bastard is in here?"

He didn't know if he had bee lucky or unlucky on the Planet Alphen. He netted a succubus and she was of no help in battle. Still, he hadn't been bored since she like to talk a lot.

Pah-paht.

The summoning stone disappeared, and a thick smoke rose up. The smoke coalesced into the shape of a small child.

She was a cute girl with a black one piece dress and she wore a hat with lace hanging off of it.

"Master!"

"Uh uh?"

A small female child suddenly hugged him... He lifted the small demon off of him.

"You... Bibi?"

"Yes, master. Where have you been?" (TLN: She's speaking in a very cutesy way. It'll be lost in translation)

Woojin could only dumbly stare down at his low ranked succubus, Bibi. He crouched to look Bibi in her eyes.

"What? Why did you show up?"

"Heeng. Master unsealed me right now."

"Huh huh.

Woojin's head hurt from his troublesome thoughts. He clutched his head, and he pressed firmly on his temple. Then he asked Bibi a question.

"Did the dimensional travel bring you with me... No, you said you were sealed..."

"I'm so happy I was able to meet master again. Anyways, what is this smell? It smells like Trahnet's minions..."

Bibi pointed towards the Rakwis at the last floor.

"What? Trahnet's minion?"

Trahnet was the name of the demon, who had invaded the Planet Alphen. Demon wasn't the right description. He was a calamity.

"They are letting out a similar smell....."

Bibi's words made his press hands against his temple again.

'Trahnet's invasion reached earth? This might be why the Dungeons formed here.....'

He had know way of knowing if it was true. He felt a strange sense of danger, and it got on his nerves. He had escaped hell, but the hell was trying come here.

"If it is Jaenis-nim, then he would know. Heh heh."

"Jaenis?"

Sage Jaenis.

He was considered to be one of the top mages on the Alphen Planet. After Trahnet invasion, he had turned himself into a Lich.

He had become a Lich, and he existed for 200 years as he lived alongside Alphen's history.

Amongst the family he commanded, the best was of course the undead magician. Lich.

He never thought he would hear that name again.

"Yes. He was in the Sealed room with me. There was RyongRyong, ShingShing and even Kiba-nim. Also..."

"Hey. Wait a moment. What is this Sealed room?"

"I'm not sure. It was like the Summoning room except master's voice didn't reach there."

The Summoning room was where Woojin's family gathered before they were summoned. It was like his inventory. It was a type of pocket dimension, and it was his family's paradise.

"Are you saying everyone is sealed?"

"Yes. I was the very first one to hear master's voice."

Woojin finally understood the situation. His necromancer class had transferred with him.

His entire familiar beings had been sealed until he was able to call on them. He had to be lvl80 to do the Lich Summoning. It seemed the level restriction was the cause of his family being sealed.

'If Earth has been invaded by Trahnet...'

He understood why the Dungeons had formed here. At the same time, he felt a sense of crisis. It wasn't the time to leisurely kill the monsters to excavate the bloodstones.

Woojin felt the need to level up faster.

"Hyung-nim!"

He heard a voice from upstairs. He turned to look at Bibi.

"You should go back in."

"Hiing. I want to stay by master's side."

"I'll call you again, so go back in."

"I understand. I'll be able to hear master's voice inside the Summoning room."

Pah-paht.

Bibi turned into a single strand of smoke as she disappeared. At the same time, Sunggoo came running down the stairs.

"Uh? Did you hear a girl's voice right now, hyung-nim?"

"Uh. I didn't hear it.,"

"Uh? Why are you still here?"

"Let's conclude our hunt today after we take care of the monsters down there."

They would barely be able to do one more Dungeon run, but Sunggoo was as exhausted as he could be. So he readily nodded his head

"I understand."

Woojin had a complicated expression on his face as he dragged his Skeleton troop down the stairs.

Chapter 23

Hammer Guild

Jung-minchan was the team leader of the 4th Support team of the Hammer guild.

The 4th Support team managed any work related to Dungeon equal to or below 3 stars. The team was also in charge of educating the new Roused inducted into the Guild, and they helped out with the training.

After he got to work, he always hand-brewed his coffee. He was a coffee maniac. He started off the day leisurely as he drank a cup of coffee in his large office. This was an important ritual for him and it gave him joy.

The 30 minutes after he got to work was his small time of happiness. His team members didn't bother him unless there was an important business.

Ddi-ri-ri.

He was about to grind the coffee beans with his hand mill when the phone rang.

He picked up the phone.

"This is 4th Support team leader, Jung-minchan."

[Team Idader. This is Haemin.]

Kim-haemin was part of the management staff he had deployed to the Maebong Station's 3rd exit. The Maebong Station's 3rd exit was taken by the Hammer guild about a month ago. They were now in charge of managing the Dungeon, where the Rakwis spawned.

"Yeah. What's going on?"

[These guys arrived at the Dungeon this morning, and they reserved 4 hours before going in. There is something wrong with these guys.]

"Did they die?"

It was common for the Roused to meet an untimely death when they attempt a Dungeon.

[No. They were able to safely clear it, but their clear time is abnormal. The first attempt took 30 minutes, but it is taking them 11 minutes to clear the Dungeon now. Huk. They just came out right now, and it took them 9 minutes 47 seconds. Hey. Hey. I won. Collect all the money.]

Minchan heard low voices in the background, and he already knew what Haemin was doing.

"Hey, what are you doing?"

[Ah. We made a bet on whether they would be able to clear the Dungeon in less than 10 minutes. Never mind about that. Why don't you look up these bastards? They said they were Rank F, but I'm sure they are ranked higher.]

Something was most definitely off. This didn't make any sense. Two ranked F Roused was able to clear a Dungeon spawning Rakwis in less than 10 minutes.

"Keep your phone by your side, and wait for me. I'll call back after I look them up. First, when their reserved Dungeon time comes to an end, try to detain them."

[Yes sir. Team Leader. Keep up the hard work.]

After Minchan ended his phone call, he logged on to the Association site to look up their information.

"What? This guy registered yesterday? The other guy seems to have registered only 2 months ago."

They were fledglings yet they were clearing 3 star Dungeons. Moreover, they were clearing it within 10 minutes.

"One is a necromancer and the other is a flame magician."

By looking at their specialty, one could roughly guess the style of their hunting method. It basically meant either there was a mistake when measuring their Roused rank or they were intentionally hiding it.

Anyways, it was obvious the two Roused were well above Rank F. At the very least, they should be Rank C. f a Roused exhibited a Rank C ability from the beginning, every single one of them matured into a high ranked Roused.

It has been a long time since a promising Roused had appeared.

"I must catch them."

Jung-minchan abandoned the coffee he loved, and he immediately left his office. As the 4th Support team, their main job was to manage the Dungeons equal to or below 3 stars, but it was also important to scout the Roused using their Dungeons.

Minchan's car raced towards the Maebong station.

After he roughly parked near the road, he headed towards the 3rd exit. Kim-haemin was waiting for him, and he gave Minchan a greeting.

"Uh. Hyung-nim came by yourself?"

"It's business hour right now."

"Ah-chacha. Team leader. Heh heh. It's bee about 8 minutes since they entered. They'll be out soon. By looking at their clear time, they still have time to go through the Dungeon once more."

They had reserved 4 hours, and they had 15 minutes left. They'll be out soon, so they might attempt the Dungeon once more.

"These guys aren't playing around. They've already made over \$300,000. Uh-whew. If I was skilled, then I would do the Dungeon runs like them."

If a high ranked Roused team attacked a 3 star Dungeon, of course it would be possible for them to clear the it within 10 minutes. However, those high ranked Roused had no reason to attempt a lowly 3 star Dungeon.

If they were able to clear a higher ranked Dungeon, the \$300,000 was chump change. The 3 star Dungeon would basically be a repetitive labor. It was as simple as that.

"Either these bastards have incredible potential or they are criminals who are using fake identities."

If they possessed some amazing Roused ability that grew enough within few days to allow a Rank F to sweep through a 3 star Dungeon, he had to get a hold of them.

It was a different story if they were criminals with laundered identities. The supervision over the Roused was very strict. It would be very hard to cover up one's identity to go through the Roused registration again.

Criminals wouldn't do such eye-catching deeds like this in the first place.

"Why aren't they coming out? It's about time they should be coming out."

Woojin's party had already passed the 10 minute mark. Haemin was becoming restless when they didn't come out like usual. Dungeons were a place where one didn't know what was coming. Everything further than one's nose was an unknown. It wouldn't be strange for a high ranked Roused to die even in a low ranked Dungeon.

"Mmmm. It means this will be their last run..."

Haemin was restless for no reason, and he glanced at his watch. They had only 4 minutes left. There wasn't enough time left for them to attempt the Dungeon one more time. Either this was there last run or they wouldn't be coming out forever.

Fortunately, it wasn't the latter situation. Woojin came out with a complicated expression on his face, and Sunggoo seemed exhausted.

'W... we burned through it like white hot fire.'

Sunggoo's two arms felt like it was about to be ripped off. However, he couldn't help but laugh when he thought about the bags filled with bloodstones on his back. The bloodstones were worth about \$50,000, and it was all his.

'I made the right choice.'

He made a good choice by sticking to Woojin, and becoming his manager. This was a once in a life time opportunity.

"What are you doing? Go quickly settle our account."

"Yes, sir. Hyung-nim."

The adjusted profit would all be going to Sunggoo this time, so Woojin didn't have to go with him. Sunggoo tried to quickly head towards the Bloodstone exchange store, but someone blocked his way.

"May I speak to the both of you for a moment?"

Sunggoo didn't give a reply, and he casted a furtive glance towards Woojin.

A flame magician with 2 month experience, and a Necromancer on his 2nd day. They were an odd combination. Moreover, the relationship between the two seemed more strange.

'I guess that person is the leader.'

Minchan approached Woojin to ask his request again.

"May I speak with you?"

"No. I don't want to."

The correspondence of his words with his action was right on point. Woojin pushed passed Minchan, who was in his face. Minchan was taken aback, and he quickly got in Woojin's way again.

"P... please. Please wait a moment. I just need a moment of your time."

"If you are planning to steal my time anyways, why are you asking politely?"

At the other's unexpected response, Minchan had two thoughts in his mind.

'What kind of crazy son of a bitch is this?'

'He is straight forward. I have quickly give him the main points.'

The former was his emotional side speaking, and the latter was his logical side speaking. Michan, who had climbed up the ranks to become the team leader of the 4th Support team, preferred logic over emotion.

"I'll tell you my business first. I want to recruit you to our Hammer guild."

Minchan hurriedly put his hand into his suit's pocket to take out a business card, then he tried to hand one to Woojin. Woojin didn't even entertain the idea of taking the business card.

He had heard a lot of information from Jaemin and Sunggoo, so he was well versed on this subject.

"I refuse."

Woojin didn't even think for 1 second before he gave his answer. Minchan had to suppress himself from grumbling, and he was barely able to reply back.

"Well, it seems you don't know about the Hammer guild yet..."

"Isn't it one of the 3 great guilds of Korea?"

"It seems you know much..."

"I'm not in a good mood, so why don't you stop bothering me?"

Woojin's thought was on a razor edge as his mind was filled with thoughts about Trahnet. He became irritated when this person started pestering him. He didn't want to speak to him, and it was about a subject he didn't want to talk about. Of course, he wasn't happy.

Fortunately, Minchan was quick to pick up on other's mood.

"Well, it doesn't have to be now. At least give us a call once. Hammer guild takes good care of the Roused with skill."

Woojin walked passed Minchan after he glanced at the business card. Sunggooo, who was following after Woojin, stealthily read the face of Woojin.

'What a waste.'

What kind of an organization is the Hammer Guild?

They were one of the 3 great guilds of Korea. They were a guild ranked within the top

20 even if one put them against the guilds of the world. They were a powerful guild, who possessed 2 Rank A Roused.

One fourth of the Dungeons in Seoul were Hammer Guild properties. The guild was probably making an enormous amount of money just from the entrance fees.

If one was noticed by such a guild, it guaranteed a fast advancement in one's status. Moreover, a member of the support team and the team leader was here to recruit him. This mean t they were very interested in him.

'How could he kick away such an opportunity?'

Sunggoo knew Woojin was in a foul mood.

Money wasn't the only thing the guild possessed. They had numerous magic and artifact. Moreover, they had experience. Sunggoo's goal was to increase his ability, and he wanted to advance in rank. As a Roused, this was opportunity was like a dream.

Minchan didn't miss Sunggoo's anxious reaction.

"Please talk it over carefully with your party member. Then please give us a call."

"Ah, yes."

Sunggoo sneakily took the Team leader Jung-minchan's business card. As he watched the two leave, Jung-minchan put on a confident smile. When the two entered the Bloodstone exchange store, he swore as he frowned.

"What the fuck! There is a limit on how arrogant a person should be."

"You are right, team leader. The bastard isn't normal."

"Ah ah! He should be thankful just to be noticed. Even that should be too much for him."

"That's right. He has no idea how high the door steps to Hammer guild is."

"Whew..."

Minchan took a couple deep breath then he let go of his anger. There were public

employees from the Management Bureau present. There were also other Roused and managers watching from the surrounding. If he had a temper tantrum, then it would be a had look for him.

Minchan approached the public employee.

"Are you going to send in your report?"

"What? Of course, I have to give my report..."

"Don't send in your report."

"Yes. Well, I'll do what you say."

Two F ranked Roused cleared a 3 star Dungeon in 10 minutes. This meant something must have went wrong when they were assigning their Ranks, so the employee had to send in a separate report.

However, the public employee was a close friend of the Hammer Guild.

The site employee Kim-haemin turned the public employee a long time ago.

"Please don't give the information to the other guilds."

"Yes. I'll do as you say."

At the public employee's answer, Kim-haemin grabbed a hold of Jung-minchan's arm.

"Jeez, team leader. This isn't the first time I've done this. I'll go have some soju with that friend over there. Anyways, are you going to try to catch those two?"

"Yes. You should return to the office for now. Go dig up some information on them. It seems those bastards aren't interested in guilds."

"Do they have enough worth for us to catch them?"

"I don't care if they don't have any value. You have to catch them first. Have you never fished before?"

"Fishing?"

"If the lure is being pulled then you reel it in. If it is a small fry then you just throw it away."

"Ah-ha."

"Anyways, go learn about them. The less people who know about them would be better for us."

The information will be spread in an instant for eye-catching guys like them. However, he had to do his best to delay it as much as he can. During that time, it would be best if they entered into the Hammer guild.

If they poked around too much then they would lose an excellent Roused to other guilds and it would be their loss.

"They... they are coming out."

At Kim-haemin's words, he turned to look. Woojin and Sunggoo was exiting the Bloostone exchange store. Minchan and Haemin stood next to each other then they looked at the two with a confident smile on their face.

"We earned a lot."

Woojin looked at the final adjusted figure, and he felt a little bit relieved. With this much money, he wouldn't have any problem purchasing a house.

This was the achievement of a Roused, who had been registered for only two days.

\$380,000.

This was the balance in Woojin's account. He already had \$50,000 in there, and he had gained \$330,000.

"Hyung-nim. I respect you."

Sunggoo had received his 10% cut, and Woojin allowed him to keep all the bloodstones he had excavated at the end. He had made \$93,000. This large sum of money blew all the thoughts about all the money he lost out of his mind.

He was once again surprised he had made so much money in one day.

"Let's go back to our neighborhood."

"Yes, sir."

They headed toward the parking lot to find their car. When they were passing the parking fee window, Woojin grinned.

"I guess the parking fee really isn't that expensive."

"Didn't I tell you? Also, the 4 star Dungeons will be very different. The drop rate for an artifact is quite high there."

If he purchase a house, then his immediate need would be fulfilled. His immediate goal was not to gather money. He knew his goal had to be leveling up as fast as he could. Woojin's expression turned complicated again, and Sunggoo threw out a question towards Woojin.

"Hyung-nim. Why did you refuse the guild's offer? Do you have any reasons......"

"It's simple."

"Yes?"

"I'm not accustomed to having someone above me."

""

Woojin was a ruler. He wasn't accustomed to having someone above him. He actually felt repulsed by it. Why should he receive orders from someone else?

How laughable.

Sunggo saw Woojin's grin, and he quietly took out the business card from his pocket. Then he threw it out of the window. He was afraid what would happen to him if Woojin found out he took the business card.

'Bye bye. Hammer Guild.'

Sunggoo grabbed onto the handle as his eyes misted up a little bit.	

Chapter 24 Looking For a House

Woojin arrived at Sadang at around 11 o'clock. He called his mother to see when she could get off.
"Yes, mother. I'll see you later."
After ending the phone call, Woojin looked at Sunggoo.
"We have nothing to do until 3 o'clock. Do you want to go eat something?"
"I'll be honored. Hyung-nim."
"Dude. Stop over doing it."
"Heh heh, I really am honored. Where should I take you?"
"Mmmm. How about a taste makes me feel like I've returned to earth?"
<i>""</i>
He was in trouble. He couldn't think of any witty words he could reply back with. Before the silence lingered, Sunggoo was barely able to give an answer.
"Hahaha. Should I take you to an organic Korean restaurant? There is a place I know."
"Mmm. Let's go there."
Woojin looked out the window, and he pointed at a specific location. Sunggoo rubbed his eyes when he saw it.
"Over there?"
"Yeah."

[Kimbab World]

Sunggoo berated himself inside.

'Now that I've touched some money I became wasteful. Hyung-nim is still frugal.'

Woojin and Sunggoo ordered what they wanted to eat after they parked in front of the Kimbab World. Woojin ordered tuna kimbab(TLN: canned tuna) and Ramen. He had a very blissful expression on his face as he savored the food.

'This. This is it.'

He thought about his old memories, and his 3rd year in high school.

This is what he had tasted at that time. The 20 years as a necromancer was bypassed, and he felt like the 3rd year high school student from earth.

"Hoo-roop.(TLN: noodle slurping sfx) Hyung-nim. Which Dungeon should I look up next?"

"Mmm. Is there something like a monster catalogue out there? It would be better if there was a list where the 1 star and 2 star monsters are ordered by their level."

"Of course, it exists."

"Let's decided after I see that."

"Yes, sir. I'll show it to you at the cafe after I organize the information."

Woojin and Sunggoo headed towards Angel Angel, and they ordered some coffee. Sunggoo glanced at Woojin before he spoke to the barista.

"Is there anything on the menu that represents the earth's taste? Is there something that'll make one feel such a sensation??"

At Sunggoo's question, the barista frowned as if he saw someone with a couple screws loose. Sunggoo turned to look at Woojin, and even Woojin was looking at him strangely.

"You have a weird taste. I want a Cafe Mocha."

""

After Woojin said those words, he went to take a seat. Sunggoo's face turned red.

"I would like an Americano and a Cafe Mocha."

"Yes. That would be \$10."

Sunggoo brought a vibrating coaster and he took a seat. Woojin slyly asked a question.

"The coffee price these days is nothing to scoff at."

"It's almost priced the same as lunch."

Woojin looked around the cafe's interior. When he came here previously, he had left without ordering anything. He was surprised when the coffee was more expensive than he thought it would be.

Soup and rice is \$6. The price was almost the same as a coffee...

It wasn't as if there weren't a lot of people here. This large cafe was half full. Woojin indirectly asked a question.

"How much would it cost to set up a store like this?"

"A cafe? I'm not sure. It should be around 1 million dollars?"

He didn't know how much the rent was, but this cafe was 3 story high. It was a large cafe. Sunggoo was in the dark about such matters, so he guessed at the answer.

'It would be great if I could set one up for mother.'

The coffee price was expensive, so he thought the business will do well. It looked to be less arduous than working at a restaurant. He made \$300,000 today. He could make 1 million dollars if he worked hard for 3 days.

Woojin thought about it in a relaxed manner. If he purchase a house, then he didn't have anything else he wanted. He'll continue to attack the Dungeon to level up, and the money would gather by itself.

The money itself was trivial. He just wondered if he should set up a store like this, so his mother could have something to occupy her time in relative comfort.

Pew pew, Pyo-ro-ro-rong...

Woojin sipped the sweet Cafe Mocha, and he focused on his phone game. While he was occupied, Suggoo brought up some data on his tablet PC.

"Hyung-nim. I have it here."

"Let me see. How do I turn the page on this?"

"It's the same as a smart phone, hyung-nim."

Woojin dragged the window to the top of the screen, then he looked at the monster catalogue.

The Rakwis from the 3 star Dungeon and the monsters like Goblin and Kobold from the 2 star Dungeons were also classified by the number of stars.

Monsters with $1\sim3$ stars were classified as low ranked monsters. The monsters were classified as high ranked starting from 4 stars.

The most basic 4 star monster was a troll. Its movement was quick, and it had enough intelligence to use tools. Moreover, they had an abnormal regeneration ability. Still, they weren't that hard to deal with.

"I heard the 4 star Dungeons and above looks a little bit different. Of course, I've personally never been to one."

The 3 star Dungeon kept the original appearance of a subway station. However, the 4 star Dungeons were basically like stepping into a different world. The entrance just acted as a gate.

"Well, I'll know once I enter one."

Woojin eyed all the 4 star level monsters. Then he weighed it against his own level.

'It'll be possible if they are at that level.'

There were easy monsters to deal with, but there were also difficult ones too. However, he felt like he would be able to take on monsters as high as 4 stars.

If he wanted to level up, it would probably be better for him to attempt the higher ranked Dungeons early on rather than going for the low ranked Dungeons.

"So who assigns the stars?"

"It is a measured value."

"What is being measured?"

"The Dungeon Energy."

"There is such a thing?"

"Yes. Every time a Dungeon is reset, the Dungeon Energy can be measured. Teams read these estimated report to decided if they should attempt a Dungeon or not."

Woojin nodded his head. The stars weren't really assigned to the monsters. It was the grade for the Dungeons. The monsters were categorized depending on which ranked Dungeons they spawn the most at.

This is why it wasn't strange to see a 3 star monster, a Hobgoblin, in the 2 star Dungeon.

"First, I want to see and experience it. Find out more about the 4 star Dungeons."

"We don't have to line up starting from the 4 star Dungeons. We can make an appointment. I'll look up if there are any empty spots in the schedules."

Woojin learned that the 4 star Dungeons and above were Field type Dungeons. Woojin spent the remaining time listening to Sunggoo's various explanations.

Woojin and Sunggoo exited the cafe when the appointed time arrived.

"Hyung-nim. I could take care of these small matters for you."

"No. My mother has to live in the house, so she should see it."

"Yes, hyung-nim. If you need anything, please give me a call."

He gave a respectful bow. Woojin nodded his head as he saw Sunggoo walk away.

"I've earned a pretty good servant."

Sunggoo sometimes over did things, but he really liked the affable Sunggoo. He headed towards Soongmi's restaurant with light steps.

Soongmi was sitting on the counter, and she was immersed in her hand phone game. Even though she was in the midst of setting a high score, she threw her phone down as she suddenly stood up.

"Uh-muh, Oppa. You came? Did you eat?"

"Yeah, I ate..."

"Do you want some coffee?"

"No. I'm heading back out immediately. Where is my mother?"

"Wait a moment, I'll call for her."

Soongmi headed inside the kitchen, and she saw Lee-soogyong and the other kitchen ladies busily working since it was lunch time. She was taking care of a stack of dirty dishes.

"Un-muh. Mother. Elder brother Woojin is here. Please hurry up and come out." (TLN: Lost in translation. But Soongmi is speaking to Woojin's mom as if she is her mother-in-law)

"O... ok. Ms. Soongmi. Let me finish this up."

At Lee-soogyong's awkward exchange, her fellow kitchen ladies made a big fuss about it.

"Ah-whew. Mrs. Lee must be very happy. Your son is making so much money that you are going to look for a house."

"The way he is making money is like that yankee gentleman, Neil Gates." (TLN: lol)

"Aigo. That's right. I've heard about him too. His name was Neil or something. I've heard he makes a lot of money. Your Wooojin is like him."

"That's right. I'm so jealous. If my son was like Woojin, I would have immediately quit this job."

"Go. Hurry up and go. Your son is waiting for you."

"I still have to do my share before going."

At her fellow kitchen ladies' complements, Lee-joonhyung finished washing the dishes with an shy smile on her face. Since she gained a dependable son, the restaurant work didn't feel arduous anymore.

"She'll come out after she finishes what she is doing. Oppa should sit here. It won't be too long."

"Ok."

Soongmi pulled a chair towards him, and he sat. When he saw Soongmi sit across from him, he asked her a question.

"What are you doing?"

"Heh heh, I'm looking at Oppa's face."

"Uh-ooh. I feel a bit uncomfortable when something ugly looks at me."

Soongmi's face remained gentle even when she heard Woojin's straightforward comment.

"Oh my. You are still so forceful."

"Uh-whew. Go make me a cup of cofee."

"Yes, oppa. If oppa feels uncomfortable then I'll look at oppa sparingly."

Now he remembered. He remembered the memories where Soongmi had clung onto him even though he said he didn't like her. While Woojin was drinking the mixed coffee Soongmi made, his mother came out.

"You are here, son?"

Behind Mrs. Lee-soogyong, the other kitchen ladies followed her out. They acted as if they had come to look at someone else's precious son. Their gazes made Woojin feel uncomfortable, so he let out a fake cough.

"Huhm. Let's go."

"Ok. Why are we going to go look at houses when he don't have any money?"

With a quiet anticipation, his mother asked the question. Woojin suppress a bitter laugh as he looked at his mother with teary eyes. Well, he guessed it would be ok to go along with this.

"What do you mean we don't have any money. This was deposited today."

Woojin showed her the figure on his smart phone. Even though she was secretly filled with anticipation, Lee-soogyong was surprised. When he said he wanted to move to a different house, she thought he had obtained around \$5,000.

"Th... th... three hundred thousand dollars?"

At Lee-soogyong's stuttered words, Soongmi's eyes turned round, and she also checked the figure. She hadn't read it wrong.

"Ooh-wah. Jackpot. It's \$380,000! The Roused are the best!"

The Roused made a lot of money. They had heard about how much money the Roused made, but they couldn't help but be surprised when they saw it with their own eyes. Woojin's mother, Lee-soogyong, was so surprised that she became tongue-tied.

"Ah-yooh. Mrs. Lee has an excellent son. In a single day, he was able to make couple hundred thousand."

"Haigo. Who cares about that Neil or whatever. Eeeeng. She won't even have to envy Mahnsook."

"Who the heck is Mahnsook?"

"Ah, you know about them. The person who sells gas at the snobby large neighborhood

"Eeeng. I heard about him. Ms Kim is so knowledgeable."

"Ho ho ho. Mrs. Lee has been holding back until now! You said he had come back after playing some game, and you were worried about him."

"Quitting your job is the least you can do. You could open up your own restaurant."

"If Mrs. Lee opens up a restaurant, then you can count on me. I'll go there to work for you."

Lee-soogyong came to her senses when she heard her fellow employees prattle on.

"W... Woojin?"

"Let's go see some houses?"

Woojin laughed when he looked at her.



Woojin escorted his mother to look around several houses as a real estate agent guided them. His mother's had a blissful expression on her face as if she was in a dream, and she liked every house we went to.

There were too many houses she liked, so she was having a hard time choosing one. These houses were much better than the one room, and they were even better than the house they had lived in before his disappearance.

At the time, they wouldn't have been able to buy houses like these with just \$300,000.

As they were choosing a house, they came across a problem from an unexpected place.

"Hoong. I don't like this house."

The kindergarten had ended, so Sooah had come to join in their search for a house. However, she acted like a petulant kid as she threw a tantrum at every house they visited.

"Why don't you like this house, Sooah?"

"We can't have a dog in this house. Mom promised me. If we move to a new house, she'll let me have a dog."

"Uh-muh. This kid."

About a half a year ago, Sooah wanted a dog. However, their residence was too small to have a dog, so Lee-soogyong had promised she would get Sooah one the next time they moved.

A long time had passed yet Sooah remembered it. When she looked at Sooah, she had on an obstinate face.

Woojin thought Sooah's antics were cute, so he let out a delighted laugh. Then he spoke to the real estate agent.

"I guess an apartment is out of the question. Can we only look at the houses?"

"Of course. However, the price is a little... Hahah."

"Well, let's see it first."

Amongst the couple houses on the market, they were able to find a house where everyone liked it.

"Oh wow! This house is great"

Sooah jumped around in joy. It was a 2 story house with a small backyard. After the Sadahng station's Dungeon Break, a new rural housing development had formed on the newly available land.

When the monsters rampaged, many apartments had collapsed. So it was common place to prefer a single home near the stations.

"I'll buy this house."

Woojin made a straightforward decision, but the real estate agent had a difficult expression on his face.

"This house was put on the market for a quick sale, so it is priced below the market price. However, it still costs \$603,000. The price difference between what you had

specified is quite large....."

"It's ok. I'll sign the contract."

"Then let us return to the office."

The real estate agent called the owner, so they would be able to meet each other at the the office. Woojin gave a call to Sunggoo.

"Hey, Sunggoo. I'm trying to buy a house, but I'm a little bit short. Lend me some money."

[.....]

The worst sin is taking back something after you gave it to the other person.....

[Well, hyung-nim. I was about to buy something, and I'm about to sign a contract......]

"Does that mean you don't want to lend me the money?"

[No. It would be my honor to be able to lend my money to hyung-nim.]

Woojin smirked.

"When we complete the next Dungeon, I'll pay it back with interest."

[Thank you. Hyung-nim.]

He was able to solve the problem of the money shortage cleanly. Woojin headed towards the real agent's office.

Chapter 25 Little Devil Bibi

They would move in a fortnight. The contract fee, and the intermediate payment would be required on the day of the move. Therefore, Woojin didn't need to borrow Sunggoo's money.

Woojin had been summoned to the Planet Alphen during his 3rd year of high school. No real estate contracts existed on that side. The locations he traveled to and where he fell asleep for the day was his home.

He lived like that for 20 years.

He had never made such a trifling contract like this. This was why Woojin didn't know what the intermediate payment and contract fee was.

While they were looking at the houses, the sun had long ago descended. They filled their hungry stomachs at a nearby restaurant, and Sooah was already sleeping from exhaustion.

He carried Sooah back home, and he laid her down. Lee-soogyong had a disappointed expression since she didn't want to part from her son.

"Why don't you live with us until we move?"

"No. However, we will have a place to live together soon."

Woojin wanted to stay. He had looked forward to meeting his family for 20 years, so why wouldn't he want to? However, there were things he didn't want his family to see.

This was why he was trying to buy a house as fast as he could.

She couldn't force her uncomfortable son to sleep in the small house. She couldn't keep him here.

"All right. As soon as I quit working, I'll makes some banchan for the dongsaeng you

live with." (TLN: banchan=korean side dish. dongsaeng=refer to younger sibling used in a general term to refer to Jaemin, gender neutral term)

"Eh-hem. It would build up my face a little bit."

At her son's cheeky behavior, Lee-soongyong was able to banish a little bit of her unease from her heart. The fact that her son had returned was like a dream. However, consecutive dreamlike events were continuing to unfold in front of her.

"I'll see you tomorrow. Please quit within couple days. If you are bored after sending Sooah to kindergarten, then I'll set up a cafe for you."

"Uh-muh, son. I'll be happy if I'm able to eat dinner with you and Sooah every night."

"I feel the same way..."

Woojin stroked Sooah's head as she slept. Then he stood up from where he sat.

"I'll see you tomorrow, mother."

"Ok. I'll see you tomorrow, son."

Woojin was sorry to have to say goodbye.

He headed towards Jaemin's house.

"Whew. Still, I've been fortunate."

Woojin was harassed by an evil spirit every single night. This was why he couldn't sleep peacefully. He wanted to avoid it, but he couldn't since it was a curse.

Fortunately, a path opened up for him where he would be able to have some relief from the pain.

After walking for awhile, Woojin turned in to an unpopulated alleyway.

"Come out, Bibi."

Whoosh.

At Woojin's call, a wind seemed to pick up, and a black smoke started to clump together. The black smoke seemed to coalesce then it scattered. This happened several times. The black smoke materialized then it scattered into some unknown place.

"What the heck? Come out, Bibi."

Woosh.

The black smoke disappeared deeper into the alley way then it started to materialize in front of Woojin again. However, it was much smaller in size than before.

"Nyahh."

The appearance of Bibi wasn't that of a small young demon. She looked like a cat. A very small young kitten.

"What? What's wrong?"

"Nyahh. I couldn't materialize my body. I had no choice, but to search for a small creature-aohng." (TLN: korean sfx for cat is yah-ohng. Every time she ends a sentence with the second half of the cat sfx)

Woojin pressed his hand firmly on his temple.

"Where is this place? I can' feel any of Trahnet's influence-aohng."

Woojin picked up Bibi.

"Can you used your ability with that shape?"

"Nyahhng. Master is low level, so I am also low level-aohng. I can only use my Nightmare-ahong."

Woojin's family also possessed levels. When Woojin had been transferred back, it seemed their levels were reset. Bibi was a low level succubus. However, it seemed her basic abilities like Nightmare wasn't tied to her materialized body.

"If you can use that then that will do."

Even if Bibi leveled up, Woojin didn't really need her abilities that'll show up later.

"Nyahhng. It smells nice here. It's the smell of peace."

She was a demon yet it seemed she was wishing for peace. He couldn't keep a wry smile off of his house from her words.

"This might be to my advantage. There won't be any problem if you live with me like this."

"Is that so-nyahng? I can stay with master instead of waiting in the Summoning roomnyahong?"

"All right. But you can't speak."

"Nyahhng. I know at least much-nyahng. How would a cat be able to speak-aohng?"

Bibi was quick on the uptake, so she'll be fine. Bibi was a big help when Woojin slept. Instead of suffering through the evil spirit's curse, he would rather have the nightmare. Was that too perverted? (TLN: preferring one pain over another)

Bibi was an important being to Woojin. If she was in her young demonic form, it would be a bit problematic if this situation was viewed through the morality of earth. However, she looked like a cat now, so it wouldn't be a problem. No one would care if he slept with a cat by his side.

Now that he thought about it Sooah wanted a dog......

"Hey. Can you change into a dog?"

"Nyaahng. The model for my materialization is already set, and I can't change itaohng."

"Mmmm..."

Well, she might also like a cat.



After his tutoring school ended, Jaemin headed toward his home.

"Uh, noonah. Please take care of yourself when you travel here. I'll meet you in front

of my tutoring school."

Today was Friday. His sister was coming home tomorrow.

Ddi ddi ddi, ddi-rori!

When he opened the door, he instinctively put his guard up as he looked around his room. As expected, Woojin was sitting on the bed. He was watching the tv as he ate a tangerine.

"Hahaha. You are here?"

Even though Jaemin had appeared, Woojin's gaze was still fixed on the television. If someone saw this scene, it would look like Woojin had lived here for a year. No, he acted so naturally that some would mistake him for Jaemin's brother.

Moreover, Woojin wasn't alone today.

"Hy... hyung. What is that?"

Jaemin pointed towards the cat with a surprised expression on his face. His finger was shaking.

Five hundred dollar was too large a sum, so he couldn't call him a trespasser...

However, he was living off of me yet he brought home a pet!

"Ah, I picked her up on my way here. I'm going to keep her."

"Huh huh. It's a cat. The fur, the fur, the smell, the smell..."

Jaemin had a dejected expression on his face. He feebly took off his shoes, then he took off his bag. He opened the refrigerator, then he chugged down some water.

'This can't happen.'

His sister was coming tomorrow. His sister had provided this precious one-room, so he would be able focus entirely on his studies. He was already unhappy by the fact that a man was in his room yet this person brought a pet without the owner's consent.

His action had crossed the line this time. He had to regain his identity as the owner of this house. Jaemin placed the empty water cup on the dinner table. He brought it down hard enough that a 'tahk' (TLN: sfx) was heard.

"Hyung!"

"Uh. I placed some more rent money on top of the dinner table. Haha. This is so funny."

""

Woojin went back to watching the tv. Jaemin peeked inside the envelope on top of the dinner table.

'Th... th... three hundred?'

At the unexpected large sum of money, Jaemin's eyes turned round. How could he have so much money? Jaemin's gaze headed toward Woojin once more.

"JaehoonJaehoon. Can you buy me this? Pooh-hee-hee."

When he looked at Woojin, who was immersed in watching the tv, he looked like a poor neighborhood bum. Even though he was an unemployed hyung, it seemed he had some money. He must have been born with a golden spoon. (TLN: born into a rich family)

No, how could such a wastrel of a golden spoon exist?

"Nyahh."

The cat next to Woojin was eating the tangerine with him... Uh? The cat ate the tangerine?

"Why are you standing there like that? Come here and have some tangerine. It's really delicious."

The Planet Alphen only had apple trees. It didn't have any tangerine trees. Woojin had always liked tangerine, and quite a few places sold it on every street he visited. So he bought it whenever he saw the tangerines.

Jaemin didn't say anything as he sat next to Woojin.

"Ah, this is so funny."

The comedy program's sketch ended. Woojin finally looked away from the tv, then he turned to look at Jaemin.

"JaeminJaemin. Why? Why the long face? JaeminJaemin."

Why does this hyung enjoy life so much? It made Jaemin look like the abnormal one, since he lived with so much worry.

"JaeminJaemin. Do you need spending money? JaeminJaemin."

""

Woojin took out his wallet. Jaemin took out his handphone when he saw the \$50 in Woojin's hand. Then he started writing a message to his noonah through KaTalk.(TLN: Kakao Talk = very popular Korean Mobile messenger app, free text/call)

[Noonah. I think noonah will have to sleep in a hotel tomorrow...]

"JaeminJaemin. Take this pocket money. JaeminJaemin." (TLN: He is speaking like this b/c he is copying the punchline to the joke he heard on tv)

"Thank you. What is the cat's name, hyung? It is quite beautiful."

Jaemin's voice turned gentle like a spring weather melting snow.



Hweeek.

Sunggoo whistled. Even if he was standing still, his shoulders felt like it was about to dance by itself.

"Hee-yah. I can't believe this is my car."

BMW 5 series.

He could have spent more, but he had thought about the entrance fee to the 4 star Dungeon. He left enough cash in reserve.

When he visited the sales office to sign the contract, he had been quite nervous. He was about pay a lump sum for the contract, but Woojin had called him to borrow his money. It made him want to cry.

Eventually he said to sign a contract on an installment plan for 60 month, and his car was delivered to him today.

When the tinting was done, it was already 12 o'clock.

"Hehe, Vroom-vroom.(TLN:This is what he named the car) Should we go on a drive?"

Hong-sunggoo. 21 years old. This was the first car he had purchased in his life, so his affection for the car was extraordinary. His car was much better than what his friends had. No, there weren't that many friends who even owned a car.

Boo-ooh-oong.

The car's power and handle couldn't even be compared to the Matiz. It elevated Sunggoo's mood. He had returned home to eat lunch with his parents, and it was already 2 o'clock now.

It was time to pickup Woojin.

"Shall we go full force?"

Woojin was a scary Roused, who could extract \$400,000 from the 3 star Dungeon. Normally, the 3 star Dungeon yielded around \$50,000 per run. He wondered how much the 4 star Dungeons would give...

For Sunggoo, Woojin was basically a lotto ticket for him.

[Oppa bought a car. I'll go get you~]

Sungoo sang at top volume as he headed towards the Sadahng station.

Woojin received a call from Sunggoo, and his eyes turned round when he went outside.

"Eeeyah. You bought this car?"

"Haha. It troubled me that hyung-nim had to ride in the small Matiz. This is why I

bought this car."

"Oh yeah. You don't have to lend me your money."

"What?"

"I decided to settle the balance in a fortnight."

""

He had signed a contract for a 60 month installed payment plan because of him... He could have told him a little bit sooner.

"That's too bad. If it is for hyung-nim, it would be well worth it even if you spend my entire fortune."

Woojin was used to Sunggoo's brown-nosing, so he let it flow over him as he looked at the car.

"Wow. This car is great."

Woojin sat in the passenger seat. As if he was amazed by the car, he started touching every inch of the car's interior. Sunggoo, who was the car's owner, looked on with nervousness.

'Ah. The oil from his hands.'

He couldn't say anything, and he put on a smile. However, his inside were burning to pitch black. Woojin still pressed against various parts of the car as if he was fascinated by it.

'Noooo!'

Sunggoo was letting out a anguished scream inside. However, Woojin's hand didn't stop as his eyes was filled with curiosity.

"What are you doing? Aren't you going to start the car?"

"...Yes."

The car would eventually become dirty. New cars became used cars. Children became adults. This was the law of nature. Sunggoo chanted a Buddhist prayer as he tried to take care of his mental health by himself.

"When is the appointment?"

"It's 5 o'clock."

He had already put down the appointment fee, so they could use a the Dungeon. They didn't have to go early to line up. They just had to make an appointment. It was a popular Dungeon, so the entire week was packed with appointments.

No one knew when the Dungeon Reset would happen, so they only took appointments for one week at a time.

"Where are we going this time?"

"We are headed to the Gwachun Station's 6th exit."

Uh? It was near his high school.

In the beginning, Woojin had gone into the Gwachun Station's 1st exit by mistake. He grinned as he thought about it.

The two rode the new car, and they headed towards Gwachun.

Chapter 26 4 star Dungeon (1)

"Team Leader. These guys made an appointment at the Gwachun Station's 6th exit?"

"Which guild does the Dungeon belong to?"

"They are owned by the Hwarang guild."

Jung-minchan frowned.

"They are acting no better than poor noobs."

It wasn't possible for an F ranked Roused to attempt a 4 star Dungeon. How could they not know such a basic thing? They just blindly made an appointment. It seemed they were nothing more than amateurs.

However, he hadn't verified their abilities himself, so it made him more curious. How much confidence do they have for them to attempt a 4 star Dungeon with only the two of them?

"Do we have a 4 star Dungeon near there"

"We do. It is the Chungsa station's 11th exit."

"It's right next door. Is there an appointment around that time?"

"Mmmm. It is scheduled for a training session for our new recruits."

"Tell them to go elsewhere. Empty the schedule over there."

"What?"

"If you want to catch a fish, then one has to throw in the chum. The bait."

He always talked about fishing. Kim-haemin grumbled inside, then he started

modifying the schedule.

"You come with me to Gwachun."

"Yes. Yes." (TLN:lost in translation. Nae=yes. Haemin changed it to nae-ee)

"Sssoop. I'll go to the market. Prepare everything for me."

"Yes, Yes." (TLN: he change nae to Nwei)

Haemin replied in a playful manner. Minchan hit him as he got up. Haemin was an asshole, but he trusted Haemin the most on his team. He was quick on the uptake, and he took care of business fast.



Woojin and Haemin reached the Gwachun station at the appointed time. However, Woojin had bumped into a precarious situation.

"Aren't you only a F ranked Roused? Why are you here at a 4 star Dungeon? Moreover, there is only two of you"

"Ah. Didn't I say it was all right? I am very confident that we could do this."

"Still, you can't go in."

"You don't have to take any responsibility for what happens to us. Just let us in."

"If you want to suicide, then go to the Hangang River. Why are you doing this over here? No. The regulation says so."

The Bureau employee blocked his way, and he wasn't budging. Sunggoo returned to Woojin with a hopeless expression on his face.

"H... hyung-nim. I don't think we'll be able to go in. I'm sorry. I should have found out everything about this place."

Sunggoo blamed himself since he had been too excited about signing his car contract yesterday. His earnings had significantly increased, but that was only possible since Woojin had gave away his earnings.

"Well, we can't do anything about it."

"I'll cover the lost appointment fee."

It cost him \$2,000 just to make an appointment.

The person in charge of the appointment never thought that 2 Ranked F would try to raid this Dungeon. The employee thought Sunggoo was making an appointment at the behest of an organization. This was why he accepted the appointment request.

This was a unique experience.

"I guess we'll have to write-off today. I'll have to go to the Bureau to renew my rank. See if there is a 3 star Dungeon nearby."

"Yes, sir."

Sunggoo had an apologetic face. He was about to move quickly when it happened.

"Oh my. We meet again in such a place?"

"Uh?"

Jung-minchan had a surprised expression on his face, and he approached Woojin and Sunggoo.

"What a coincidence. I'm sorry, but what's going on? If it's possible, I would like to lend a hand."

Sunggoo told Minchan about their situation. Minchan put on his thinking face, then he secretly glanced at Woojin to see how he was reacting.

Woojin could see through Jung-minchan's intent, so he grinned. Coinicidence? Bullshit.

Woojin gestured with his chin towards Sunggoo. It basically meant for Sunggoo to talk.

Sunggo gave a detailed explanation.

"So what if we do this? Our guild's Dungeon is located at the next station. I'll let you

use that place."

"Uh? Hy... hyung-nim?"

Sunggoo turned to looked at Woojin, and he waited for Woojin to make a decision. Woojin nonchalantly asked a question.

"I'm sure you expect no return for the favor?"

"Just a favorable impression toward us."

Minchan put on a friendly smile. This caused Woojin to laugh with him.

"I'll use it with thanks."

"You are very straightforward."

Minchan smiled as he looked at Woojin.

His reaction was softer than yesterday.

No, he might not be a psycho in the first place. Yesterday's reaction might be an exception to the norm.

"Haha, Follow me,"

Minchan yelled in delight inside his heart as he escorted Woojin and Sunggoo. When they left, the dispatched employee of the Hwarang guild quickly made a call.

"Team leader. Jung-michan came here not too long ago. He took two rank F Roused away, and he treated them like royalty."

[What are you saying all of a sudden?]

"Ah. Recently, two ranked F wanted to enter the 4 star Dungeon. They were being unreasonable, and argumentative. Do you remember the Team leader from the Hammer guild, who tried to act all elegant? He took the two Rank F to somewhere else. No, he pretty much escorted them out."

[If that bastard Jung-minchan moved then something is fishy......]

"Right? It seems those bastards have something up their sleeves? The F ranks tried to attempt a 4 star Dungeon."

[First, let's end the call. I'll try to find out some information about them.]

Hwarang guild's Support team leader also started to get busy.

The Gwachun Station and the Gwachun City Hall Station wasn't that far away. They walked for a short amount of time as they conversed, and they were able to arrive at their destination in no time.

"If you join our guild, you could have prevented such minor things from happeing in advance. Moreover, you could raise your Roused rank in a flash with us. Our guild is well known for giving a lot of support to our Roused."

During the brief walk, Minchan had repeated numerous selling points of the Hammer guild. Woojin knew what was happening. This was the price for his favor. Woojin was expected to listen to him prattle on.

So, he decided to just listen.

"Jeez. That seems quite convenient?"

"It really is convenient. If one needs money then money is provided. If one needs an artifact then an artifact will be given. You will be provided with any support you want."

Woojin replied to humor him a little bit.

"The members of the Hammer Guild must really like it."

"Hahaha. Thank you for acknowledging our guild."

He somewhat spoke the truth.

"Ah, we are already here. Please be at ease as you use this Dungeon. You don't have to pay the fees for its use."

"Is that also a favor?"

"Of course."

The fees for the 4 star Dungeons were known for being very high. However, he said he won't charge us at all, so it was a pretty significant favor.

Woojin didn't hesitated as he agreed to it.

"I'll gratefully accept it. How about that public employee over there?"

"I'll quickly work to adjust Woojin-nim and Sunggoo-nim's ranks."

"Those are some welcoming words."

At Woojin's answer, Minchan smiled inside.

There were no favors without a string attached to it. No. Even if he didn't want something back, the favor he gave would put a favorable light in their heart for the Hammer guild.

If someone bought you a meal, then you'll naturally wonder if you have to buy the other person a meal the next time. It was human nature to feel this burden.

At the very least, Woojin would think more highly of the Hammer guild compared to the other guilds. When one builds a fire, one had to be sure to build a proper one.

"Please wait a moment. I've prepared a present for the two of you..."

"Uh-ooh. You also got us a present?"

Woojin didn't show any signs of refusing the present. Michan yelled in delight inside his heart. As a Roused, his potential ability was mind-boggling, but Woojin was still a 24 year old cub.

He could tell Woojin hadn't had much of a societal life. He unhesitatingly took everything just because it was given. Minchan was sure now. This opponent had basically climbed on top of his palms.

"Then please wait for a moment."

Minchan went to the car he had parked nearby to pick up the present. While Minchan

was doing this, Kim-haemin turned towards the two. He tried to start a friendly conversation.

"Hehe. Mr. Woojin seems very different from yesterday."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"Uh-ooh. I was too scared to start a conversation with you."

Woojin laughed at Haemin's brashness. His head was a mess yesterday, because he was thinking about Trahnet.

"Yesterday I wasn't feeling so well."

"Hehe. You must be a man who act on his feelings. Now that I see you today it seems you have a good personality. Do you want to have some soju after this ends?"

"That'll be great."

Ah. He'll welcome soju anytime.

Haemin tactfully praised Woojin and Sunggoo. He tried hard to match their moods.

Sunggoo could only shake his head when he saw them act like this. They were trying hard to fawn over Woojin, but would he actually join the guild?

'These guys are barking up the wrong tree. Tsk tsk.'

Sunggoo felt sorry for Minchan and Haemin. They were purposefully trying to be on the same beat as Woojin. Woojin wasn't evil, but he didn't have a conscience.

Sunggoo thought his hyung-nim looked splendid when he acted that way.

"Ah, I'm getting bored waiting for him. Tell him to give me the present after I come back out."

"Ah. You want to do that?"

"I'll see you later. We'll talk over some soju."

"Hehe. I'll take you to a great place."

Woojin and Sunggoo quickly descended the stairway.

"We gave you plenty of time for your appointment. Fighting."

Woojin grinned and he disappeared as he waved his hand. As he watched them disappear in to the barrier, Kim-haemin smiled brightly, and he waved his hand.

Suddenly, Haemin felt a terrifying sensation. His neck retreated into itself like a turtle then he turned his head to his side.

Waa, his heart.

Team leader Jung-minchan was frowning as he glared at Haemin.

"Hey. What the hell are you doing?"

"I'm... I'm seeing them off?"

A vein popped out on Jung-michan's forehead.

"Didn't I say I'll go get the present?"

"Haha. Weren't... weren't you going to wait for them to clear it before you were going to give it to them? Just give it to them when they come out."

At Haemin's words, Jung-minchan felt himself raise his hand in anger. He was barely able to hold himself back. He dropped the bag he brought on the floor. The large sports-bag let out a thump as it fell on to the floor.

It was quite heavy, so the impact ripped the zipper open, and the content was revealed.

There were water filters, first-aid kit, cloth and a seeker. Moreover, it held a map with the location of the Return stone, and a Dungeon guide with the location of the enemy's position.

'A survival kit?'

The 1~3 star Dungeons were low level Dungeons. The 4~6 star Dungeons were high

ranked Dungeons.

It wasn't simply about the classification of high rank and low rank. There was a fundamental difference in the structure of the Dungeons.

The present Jung-minchan had prepared was none other than a survival kit.

"The F ranked bastards came to attempt a high ranked Dungeon, but how much do you think they know about the high ranked Dungeons?"

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"That, that is....."
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Haemin's face was turning pale. The recommended team composition for attacking a 4 star Dungeon was to have a Rank C team leader. The rest of the Roused team had to be at least Rank D.

However, only two of them entered without any information about the Dungeon.

"This isn't a favor any more. We basically cornered them into the jaws of death."

""

A 4 star Dungeon with no information about it... It was a horrifying situation.

Haemin spoke carefully.

"Do... do you think they'll come back alive?"

"They basically went into jungle barehanded."

" "

Haemin's face turned white. From the beginning, he should have said it was a survival kit instead of a present. Minchan and Haemin didn't speak for a while.

"Exscuse me, team leader. What if they do?"

"What?"

"What happens if they do come back alive?"

"Well....."

They had gone to the jungle barehanded. Moreover, if they returned alive from a place crawling with monsters, and it was only the two of them instead of a team.....

"At the very least, they will be Rank B."

Minchan's face turned dark as he spat out those words.

"Moreover, they'll probably be filled with animosity. They won't have any goodwill towards our guild."

They had cornered them into the jaws of death without giving them any proper information. No, he wouldn't be able to say anything if they accused him of pushing them in a trap after digging it. They would also be reprimanded from the Roused Affairs Bureau.

On the surface, it looked like they had thrown two rank F Roused into a 4 star Dungeon.

"Whew. Hurry up and tell them to change their Roused rank right now."

Jung-minchan's sigh made Haemin more timid.



< You have enter the Gwachun City Hall Station's 11th exit.>

<This Dungeon has already been captured. The basic monsters will be summoned.>

Woojin and Sunggoo steadily went down to the lower floors. Woojin defeated the monsters, and he searched for the bloodstones. Then he marked the corpses with his Marking magic. Sunggoo followed after him, and he cut open the monster's corpses to bag the bloodstones.

They had been nervous since this was a 4 star Dungeon, but the monsters were much weaker than they had expected. It was on the same level as the monsters from the 2 star and 3 star Dungeons.

"Are you really sure this is a 4 star Dungeon?"

"I... I'm not sure"

He hadn't fought against the monsters, so he had no idea. Even the 2 star monsters had been a tough opponent for Sunggoo. Therefore, he could't tell the difference. Woojin said they were weak, so he just took Woojin's words at face value.

"Maybe this Dungeon is more easier than the average Dungeon?"

"Well, who knows? Let's quickly dispatch them then we could head out."

Woojin cleared the lowest floor where the subway train would be parked then he used his Search magic. For the first time since he had entered the Dungeons, Woojin was taken aback.

"What? The Return Stone isn't here."

"What? That can't be"

Sunggoo stopped extracting the bloodstones. He approached Woojin with a worried expression on his face.

'Maybe my Search Skill level is too low?'

If he increased the Search Skill level, it would only increase the search radius. If an item was hidden in a secret location, he had to learn a higher ranked magic. This required one to be a Magician class.

"Mmmm. Well, let's search again as we head back. Extract the rest of the bloodstones."

"Yes, hyung-nim."

Woojin was suspicious as to whether this Dungeon was really a 4 star. The quality of the monster here was subpar. He had a method that could accurately measure this.

Achievement Points.

Monsters of Rakwi quality gave 3 Achievement Points. The bloodstone drop rate wasn't that high, but there were a lot of them. He thought it would be better to attack a spot where a lot of Rakwis spawned.

"I've excavated them all, hyung-nim."

"Then let's search for the Return Stone as we head toward the Station's entrance."

The Return Stone doesn't always come out from the monster's corpse. It could be hidden in various locations. This was why Woojin retraced his steps, and he used the Search Magic again.

Even as he approached the entrance, there was no trace of the Return Stone. He suddenly felt uneasy.

"If we ascend here, it'll be the entrance..."

Sunggoo mumbled to himself. When they climbed the stair, a portal emitting a red light formed in front of the barrier.

Weeeeeee.

It let out a strange sound. Woojin and Sunggoo looked at it with a queer expression on their faces.

Chapter 27 4 star Dungeon (2)

"Is that a portal?"

The color was different, but the portal made by the Dimensional Guardian had the same appearance. No. The size is a bit smaller...

Suddenly, Sunggoo kneeled down in front of Woojin.

"I'm sorry, hyung-nim."

"Huh? Why?"

"This is my fault. When I bought my car yesterday, I became too excited. I was lax in my preliminary research of the Dungeons."

Woojin smirked.

"It's all right. Get up."

At Woojin's generosity, Sunggoo stood up with a touched expression on his face. He threw away the excited feeling from his heart, then he put a tight reign over his feelings using his nervousness.

'I've lost my mind.'

Suggoo looked back on the past two days, and he had to admit he had been too excited. Sunggoo normally attacked only 1 star Dungeons. The first time he raided a 2 star Dungeon he had almost died. He had acted like he had forgotten about that incident.

If it wasn't for Woojin, he would have died on that day. Moreover, he wouldn't even be able to enter a 4 star Dungeon or even a 3 star Dungeon. For Sunggoo, a 4 star Dungeon was basically a death trap.

Even though he was coming to such a place, he hadn't done the proper research. He

came here with light feet as if he was going to a picnic... He had gone crazy. He really had lost his mind.

Moreover, the little amount of research he had done wasn't for this Dungeon. It was for the previous Dungeon. When they moved to a different Dungeon, he should have done more research, and he should come up with another plan. He had been in too much of a rush.

"Now that I think about it this situation is a bit weird. Even though they said this was a favor, it hadn't felt like they were pushing us to enter."

"I guess."

Woojin also thought for a moment. Woojin didn't worry about the past events since it was a useless thing to do.

"Either they planned on screwing me over or they have a very high opinion of me."

Woojin started thinking about the future instead of the past.

Portal.

Should he go in or not?

He had searched all over the subway station, but he didn't find the Return Stone. His path was already chosen. He was going to choose the path with no worries.

"Let's go in."

"Yes, sir. Hyung-nim."

Even if it is hell, he would follow Woojin. Sunggooo decided on the spot. He didn't care about the Guilds. Woojin was his guiding light. He was his rescue rope.

Jeeeeeeeng.

Woojin passed through portal. He didn't feel the strain he had felt when he returned to earth from Planet Alphen. The view in front of his eyes turned dizzy. Then his visual field cleared.

It felt different from moving to a different dimension. It felt like he had passed through a sticky liquid. It was unpleasant and it made him feel dizzy.

However, there weren't anything wrong with his body.

"Huh?"

Woojin was surprised at the scene he saw in front of his eyes. A jungle with thick brushes and large trees was sprawled out in front of him.

"Hy... hyung-nim."

At Sunggoo's shocked expression, Woojin turned to see a naked Sunggoo. At Sunggoo's appearance, he raised his hand, and it seemed he wasn't wearing anything either.

"It basically means only the body can go through the dimensional shift."

They were basically thrown naked into the jungle. Woojin opened his Achievement Store, and he started to shop for clothes. Fortunately, basic clothes with no option cost less than 4 points. It was being sold at a cheap price.

"Hmm hmmm."

As if Sunggoo was a little bit embarassed, he let out a fake cough.

Sunggoo's gaze secretly dropped down towards the lower half of Woojin's body.

'Of course, hyung-nim is great.' (TLN: he used a double entendre in Korean("كلّ))

It felt like he had lost, but he didn't care. Of course, the hyung-nim he admired was huge.

"Here. Wear this."

"Uh? Where did those clothes..."

For a brief moment, Sunggoo's eyes had been looking elsewhere as his heart was being stolen. (TLN: there is no romantic connotation here) Woojin tossed him some clothes, and Sunggoo was surprise when he saw it.

Of course, he had a large package("إلى"), and he could make make clothes out of nothing.

Woojin put his plain clothes on then he carefully observed his surrounding. The portal was located on top of a stone altar, and there was a wide open space around it. The radius was about 5 meters.

He looked North, South, West and East. However, the only thing he could see was trees.

"I guess we entered into the real 4 star Dungeon."

Woojin grinned.

After he finished putting on his clothes, Sunggoo looked towards Woojin with a nervous expression. He had to be on his toes. Even a small mistake will get him killed.

"I'm going to prepare for a moment. Keep a lookout."

Sunggoo immediately started to look around his surrounding.

Woojin opened his Achievement Store then he started getting ready for everything that could be thrown at him. He was level 10. He had his transfer bonus, so he would be rated higher than a normal level 10. However, this was a 4 star Dungeon, so even he might be in danger.

Necromancer's characteristics allowed one to deal with numerous low level enemies with no problem. However, a Necromancer would have a hard time with a single powerful enemy.

He didn't know which monsters would jump out at him, so he had to make preparations beforehand. Fortunately, he had hunted like a madman at the Rakwi spawn site. He had taken a loss in how much bloodstones dropped, but his Achievement Points had steadily stacked up. So he had a lot in spare.

Woojin bought all the small magic he would need for everyday life. Then he purchased several Warrior class skills.

<Warrior's Sense>

One could feel how strong one's opponent is.

<Warrior's Rage> Don't make the Warrior angry. His anger allows him to use an unbelievable amount of power. Once he rages, his enemies will be slaughtered. Strength, Agility, Stamina stats are increased by 50%. Duration Time: 30 sec Reuse Cool-down time: 60 min <Jump> The Warrior from time to time shows an unbelievable jumping ability. Energy Consumption: 1 <Charge> A Warrior's charge is reckless. Anywhere he wants to be, he is already there. Energy Consumption: 1 <Strike> Warrior's powerful blow. +100% attack is added to the basic attack. Energy Consumption: 1 Warrior's Sense and Rage were passive skills. Moreover, he purchased Jump, Charge, and Strike, which were active skills. All of them were Class skills one could learn at level 10. If one wasn't a Warrior then one wouldn't be able to learn it. 'All right. That should be enough. Now the leftover Stat...'

<Stat>

Strength: 30 Agility: 30 Stamina: 30 Intelligence: 30

Magic: 25 Vitality: 0 Recovery: 10 Healing: 10

Control: 34

Unassigned Points: 0

Woojin had stacked 20 unassigned points as he leveled up to level 10. He put the points into Magic and Control. Then he bought several potions from the Achievement Store. He might run out of magic during a battle.

'If I want to work on my Stat, then I'll have to increase my inventory.'

He decided to raise his Stat through research. He needed various ingredients to make his drugs. Woojin's inventory was only 3 shelves. He bought 3 Dimensional bags with 3 shelves each.

The purchased Dimensional bag immediately expanded his Inventory into a space of 12 Shelves.

< You cannot purchase any more.>

If he wanted to expand his Inventory again then he had to buy different types of bag. It seemed the purchase limit for the same type of bag was three.

'The 6 shelve bag costs 10,000 points.'

The price was too burdensome for him right now. He had to see the recipe then he would know which ingredient items he needed to gather. Therefore, he bought all the reasonably priced recipes.

'I guess this much battle preparation should be enough?'

In the first place, Necromancers use their summoned beings to fight their battle. They didn't put much importance on equipment. Their Skills were more important.

He had a lot more Bonus Points left, but he decided to save it. If the difficulty of the battles were too high, then the Bonus Points would be invaluable. It was basically Woojin's hidden trump card.

Woojin used the rest of his points to purchase small items. He put it into his Inventory, then he stood up. Woojin thought about summoning his steel staff, and it popped out into being in his grasp.

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"Let's go."
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"Yes, hyung-nim. By the way..."

"What?"

"Is hyung-him able to use the sub-dimension?"

Woojin suddenly produced clothes from thin air, and he had also taken out a staff. This was why he asked the question. If it wasn't a sub-dimension, then he had no explanation on how Woojin was able to do this.

"Yes."

"Huk!"

The sub-dimension artifacts were very expensive. Woojin wasn't using an artifact, so it meant he was using magic. One had to be Rank B to use the sub-Dimension magic.

There weren't that many Rank B Roused in Korea.

"Hy... hyung-nim. You are incredible. I admire you."

"Stop playing around, and hide your life signature."

"Yes, sir!"

Woojin took deliberate steps forward. From now on, they would be in the real 4 star Dungeon. The Detection Skill he had steadily raised was level 3. Now it was possible for him to detect a monster's life signature from a distance.

"There are three of them in the front. I don't know what they are."

"What... what should we do?"

"You hit them. When those bastards start attacking, just escape towards me or you'll

be summoned back as a Skeleton Soldier."

"Hee-ehk."

Sunggoo had a vivid image of his body exploding and a Skeleton Soldier being summoned through him. Even if he died, he didn't want to die like that.

"You dork. Stop being so afraid. I'm just telling you to be on your toes."

Nervousness was like a poison in battle. However, the day you don't feel nervous on the battle field is probably the day you will die. This was more poignant in a battle with monsters.

Whether you become the hunter or the hunted, it wasn't like the faces of a coin where it is one side or the other.

Are you going to melt and become the water or freeze to become an ice...

Woojin always looked relaxed, but his senses were wide open and it was on edge.

"Let it fly."

Hwarooo-rook.

At Wooin's command, Sunggoo threw his fireball. His ability wasn't a bad one. If one compared one's long range magic, Sunggoo's fireball was stronger than any long distance magic Woojin possessed.

Puk!

The fireball made impact, and it let out sparks to the surrounding.

"Uh?"

There was a problem he hadn't had to worry about in the subway stations. A forest fire started to spread, and it accompanied a...

"Kwahhhhh!"

As it let out a terrible cry, an alligator shaped monster named Krocodile showed up. It

charged towards them like a soldier crawling underneath wires in training.

Boom, Boom.

It busily moved its short legs quickly as it wiggled its body from side to side. It possessed prodigious strength and it broke all the small trees in the way of its charge.

It was as large as a bull.

Its saw like teeth was as large as a kitchen knife.

'I'm fucked.'

At the incredible sense of danger, Sunggoo couldn't even think about running away. At that moment, Woojin walked in front of him.

<Crocodile lv 31>

'I guess this is the Warrior's Sense.'

Shooook!

In a flash, Woojin charged forward as he plowed through the brushes. He looked like an Olympic sprinter. No. The movement technique in Muhyup novels would probably look like this.

Kwa-jeek!

It opened its mouth in a threatening manner. Woojin's jumped 3 meter in the air to avoid it. Sunggoo's mouth dropped open.

How could a person move like that?

As he was falling, Woojin grabbed the steel staff with both hands, and he accurately planted it on the Krocodile's head.

The series of moves were so perfect that Sunggoo couldn't help but admire it. If Woojin was a gymnast, he would have given him a perfect score.

Sunggo saw Woojin's movement, and it was beautiful.

Also...

"Ah. Its leather is really tough."

Puh-uhk, puk!

"Ggoooroook!"

He was rough, and violent.



In front of Gwachun City Hall Station's 11th exit.

Minchan and Haemin continued to stare at Dungeon's barrier with a stunned expression on their face. The barrier hadn't dissipated, so it meant there were people still alive inside.

"Ha. How long will they last?"

"Wouldn't they be able to at least defeat a Krocodile?"

"They'll probably able to kill it."

"How about if they meet 3 of them? Wouldn't it be too difficult for them?"

""

Krocodile was a difficult monster to kill. Most physical attacks couldn't damage the tough leather, and it also had a pretty good resistance to magic.

Maybe if one had a sharp spear-like weapon, then one could probably attack the inside of its mouth, which was its weak point. However, 4 star Dungeons didn't allow one to bring outside items.

Only the Roused and the items from the other world could move through the portal. The items in the survival kit were manufactured from ingredients brought back from the other side.

"Mmmm. They are fighting barehanded, so even one Krocodile might be too hard."

"Even if they are able to kill the monsters, food and water is a problem."

Also, monsters weren't the only danger present. Even if there were no monsters, one was dropped bare-naked in the middle of an amazon forest. The probability of a human surviving there dropped sharply.

"Uh-whew."

Minchan and Haemin could only let out a sigh when they felt the guilt about getting innocent people killed.

Sizzle sizzle.

Sunggoo ate the well-cooked skewer of meat, and his eyes turned round.

"Hyung-nim. This taste is to die for!"

"Alligators taste great if you tenderize the meat."

"You are amazing, hyung-nim!"

In Sunggoo's eye, Woojin was basically a god-like figure.

He didn't know when he had the time to pack everything, but he took out a sharp cooking knife from inside the sub-dimension. He also took out pots, and other cooking utensils. Woojin cut the meat, and he pierced it with wooden skewers. A little bit of salt was sprinkled before they cooked it over the fire, and the taste was fantastic.

Woojin's omniscience was endless.

He took out an oak cask, and he even poured out some beer.

He brought alcohol to a Dungeon!

"Dude. Try this out. Krocodile skewers go great as side-dish with the beer."

"Kyahh. This is so delicious."

Suggoo raised both his thumbs. The beer had a much deeper taste than the imported beers. Sunggoo wasn't proficient at tasting alcohol, but even he fell in love with it. Woojin was in a good mood when he was able to taste the Planet Alphen's beer he had purchased from the Achievement store.

He thought he would never be able to enjoy this taste again.

"Eat a lot. This place is large, and we have to search all of it."

"Yes, hyung-nim."

They didn't have any information regarding the Return Stone, so they had to search the entire jungle. However, Woojin was in a good mood since a single Krocodile gave 30 Achievement points.

It was 10 times the point he made from killing the Rakwis.

'I guess I'll level up a little bit.'

Woojin grinned as he thought about the vast jungle.

Chapter 28 Same Place (1)

How long would this feeling of anxiety continue?

Haemin had been feeling it for about 30 minutes and Minchan felt it for no more than 40 minutes. The two of them waited for the barrier to disappear. At the very least, they wanted to see the moment when the two had died as a courtesy.

"Team leader. These guys are lasting quite awhile?"

"I guess so."

"If they lasted this long, doesn't it confirm they were able to survive in the jungle?"

"I guess so."

"...maybe they might clear it?"

At Haemin's hopeful words, Minchan's face turned bright for a moment. However, he his face turned sullen soon.

"He is a Necromancer, so he'll have his summoned beings. Even if he was able to defeat the Krocodile using his summoned being as bait, he won't be able to escaped the swamps."

"Mmmm. When you say the swamps..."

In various parts of the jungle, large swamps had formed, and the swamp was basically a death trap for close ranged fighters. The swamps limited one's movement, and there were two types of monsters that spawned at the swamps.

The Fuco Monkeys and Swamp Anacondas.

Fuco Monkeys threw a very hard fruit named Fuco at their opponents, and it could deal quite a lot of damage. If one took a wrong blow to the head then one would be in

danger of dying.

It was hard to move in the swamps, so the only way to attack was using long-ranged magic.

Minchan had too little information on the two. He knew the Roused named Hong-sunggoo had a Flame ability. However, Fuco Monkeys attacked in packs with at least 10 members. It wasn't something a single person could deal with.

Moreover, when one is busy dealing with the Fuco Monkeys, the large anacondas would silently approach and attack. One would be too exhausted to fend it off.

"Whew. That sounds difficult."

"It is difficult."

When one attacked a 4 star Dungeon, several types of abilities were needed. This was why a team was always formed. Minchana and Haemin went back to watching the barrier with dark expression on their faces.



Hwa-roo-rook, boom!

Several dozen fireballs flew towards the branches.

"Ooh-kii-kii."

The surprised monkeys madly dodged the fireballs. During all of this, ice arrows flew in, and it struck the body of the monkey. It made their movement sluggish.

Ssoo-ehhhhk! Boom!

"Kii kii kii."

While the forest was burning up, an electrical attack came flying towards the Monkeys.

Pah-ji-ji-jeek!

"Ggweek!"

Woojin was radiant as he saw the monkeys falling like leaves.

"Koo-hahaha. Wipe them all out."

" "

Sunggoo's face was livid with horror as he looked at the horrible scene.

Hwa-roo-rook.

The forest was burning. If this was earth instead of a Dungeon, this event would have been the headline in the media.

Woojin already had 40 Skeleton Magicians by his side.

Some were shooting Fireballs and some were sending out Ice Arrows. The rest were using Electricity magic.

At least he was comforted by the fact that his fireballs was a bit stronger than the Skeleton Magician's fireballs.

Sunggoo had never seen such a violent and brutish hunting method.

Woojin had a retinue of Skeleton Magicians, and they were burning and destroying the entire jungle. It was an indiscriminate massacre.

It was a banquet of Magic.

Hwa-roo-rook, Puh-puh-puhng!

"Kekeke. I leveled up again. Ooh-haha."

""

Sunggoo wondered if Woojin had lost his mind. It seemed his mood was elevated to another level. It didn't suit a person who was madly destroying the jungle.

Sunggo had never seen Woojin be in a better mood. No, this was the most excited he had seen Woojin be.

When Woojin leveled up, he put the 10 Bonus Stat Points into Magic and Control. He invested 5 points each.

"Now, come new recruits!"

At Woojin's call, 5 dead monkey corpses exploded, and new Skeleton Magicians were added to his troops...

'Dual class is fucking awesome!'

Woojin got a taste of a new world when he turned from level 10 to level 11. Every time he leveled up, he received 10 bonus Stat instead of 5. The Bonus Stat had doubled.

Even the Bonus Skill Point had increased from 1 to 2 points.

He thought it was a setup that allowed him to develop both the Warrior and Necromancer class at the same time. However, Woojin didn't even bother with the Stat and Skills for the Warrior Class. He put all the points into Control and Magic.

His current level was 14.

As a bonus, he had received 40 Stat Points. He put most of it into Control and Magic. He also put several points into Recovery, which helped his magic recover.

Magic: 40 Recovery: 14 Control: 55

As the number of Skeleton Magicians increased around Woojin, the forest was destroyed at a higher pace. The monsters were too busy running away.

<Achievement + 25, Achievement + 23... >

Every time Woojin killed one Fuco Monkey, he yelled out in joy as he calculated the Achievement Points. In the 3 star Dungeon, he had only received 3 Achievement Points, because the hunting ground didn't suit his ability.

Woojin's current level was 14, but the Transfer Bonus and other skills basically meant he could be seen as a level 40.

Woojin swept everything before him as he advanced. From the rear, consecutive magic blast flew up like rocket launchers, and it landed in the forest. The only thing left was

for the forest to burn.

"Who ordered the jajangmyeon!" (TLN: noodle + black bean paste + veggie/meat)

"Ah, over here."

Hamein took the two bowls of jajang from the delivery man then he approached Minchan, who was sitting on the subway station's stairs. The Dungeon employee, and the staff in charge went to a nearby restaurant to eat a meal.

"Team leader. Our dinner is here."

"I want Ganjajang." (TLN: same as jajangmyeon but the sauce is thicker)

"This restaurant's jajang is tastier."

"You bugger. This is the first time you are ordering from this place."

""

"Uh-whew. Whatever. Let's just teat."

Minchan took the jajangmyeon, and he mixed it. He asked a question as he put a mouthful of the noodle in his mouth.

"How long has it been?"

"Four hours has passed."

"Mmmm. So, 16 hours..."

The structure of the 4 star Dungeon wasn't the only thing unique about it. The time there was 4 times faster then the real time. They had already spent over 16 hours inside the Dungeon.

The Dungeon monsters quickly realized if there was an intruder. The monsters slowly converged on the intruders, so hiding wasn't an option.

One could hide for a short amount of time, but it was almost impossible for one to hide from the monsters for 16 hours.

"They probably came across a swamp by now. However, we don't really have much information about their abilities."

"That's true. Uh... Then don't we have to worry about them coming back alive? We were the one who put them in danger..."

Michan shook his head at Haemin's worry.

"It's already been 16 hours, so they are probably starving by now. How well do you think they'll know about the ecosystem over there? The plants, animals and bugs aren't like the ones found on earth. They are all very different."

"Jeez. If they mistakenly eat a poisonous plant..."

"It's the end of the road."

Maybe it was because of the words he were mumbling, but he lost the taste for his food.

"In the future, don't order from here."

"...Yes."

The jungle was burnt to the ground... In the open space, Woojin was roasting something on a stick over the campfire.

Chi-ji-jeek.

From the surrounding, Sunggoo had gathered fruits and mushrooms that wasn't damaged by fire.

"Hyung-nim. I picked these up."

"Uh, well done."

Woojin picked up the fruits brought to him by Sunggoo. He picked each up one by one.

"You can eat this if you peel the skin. You can't eat this. It's poisonous. This one is also poisonous, but we can eat it if we cook it over the fire."

Woojin gave an explanation to Sunggoo. Sunggoo feverishly listened to Woojin like a student who was going to take the college entrance exam soon. The only regret Sunggoo had was the lack of notebooks. He wanted to write all of this down.

"Hyung-nim. How are you so knowledgeable about this?"

"Uh, that is..."

Of course, he was knowledgeable about it. This place was basically like a mixture of the ecosystem and neighborhood he had lived at for 20 years.

"Well. Why don't you just listen without saying anything?"

"I'm sorry, hyung-nim. I won't ask about it again."

"Go cut some of that grass over there. We can crush it into a paste. It tastes fantastic when you slather it on the meat."

"Yes, sir. So what's the menu this time?"

"Snake meat. It's fantastic. Also, I'm getting tired of eating only meat. Let's eat some roasted mushroom."

"Kyahh. My mouth is already watering."

To his surprise, everything Woojin cooked was very tasty. Sunggoo was really looking forward to it.



Michan favored the taste of Ganjajang, but he still emptied the whole bowl.

The current time was 7:45.

Woojin and Sunggoo had already been in the Dungeon for 4 hrs and 20 min.

Haemin went to fetch a blanket, and he gave it to Minchan.

"Team leader. The day is getting cold."

"Yeah. Thanks."

"So, Team leader. What happens if we aren't able to scout Mr. Woojin and Mr. Sungooo?"

"What do you think? We can only begrudgingly let them go."

"Don't we need to report it to the president?"

"It's already been sent. He was apathetic."

"What?"

Haemin's eyes became round. If it wasn't an order from the president, then why were they putting so much effort into this venture?

He had already ordered the employee to raise Kang-Woojin to Rank C and Hongsunggoo to Rank D. The newly issued Roused Card had already been delivered to Minchan's hand.

If he was to be blunt, it basically meant if those two died then their work would be much cleaner. They would lament the fact that they weren't able to rope the two into the guild, but the consequence would end there. The complication would arise if those two came back alive, and they took issue with what happened.

"Hey, Haemin."

"Yes, Team leader."

"You know about me. In the past 5 years, my eyes have never deceived me."

"It makes sense. Team leader's evaluation of others had always been on point."

Minchan had been involved in Dungeon related work since the Dungeon Shock. He was a veteran. He wasn't an founding member of the Hammer guild, but the work he had done for the guild was quite illustrious.

"Didn't Team leader discover Park-jinwoo?"

Hammer guild had two Ranked A Roused. One of them was Park-Jinwoo. Jung-minchan had recognized his potential, and he had roped him into the Hammer guild.

"I get a powerful feeling from that bastard, Woojin."

"Does that mean he has a similar potential?"

If the Roused had potential, the Guild would bend over backwards to help the person grow rapidly. Haemin had asked if Woojin had as much potential as Park-jinwoo. Haemin shook his head.

"I have a feeling he has more."

" I"

"That is why I don't want to lose him."

Jung-minchan was telling the truth. He felt a strong sensation coming from Kang-woojin. It didn't feel like a sandalwood being fragrant even in seed leaf.(TLN:idiom) It was much more than that... It felt like he was looking at a large tree.

"This is why I want him to come back alive. I don't care even if he doesn't join the Hammer guild. If we lose a Roused like that, then it would be a loss for humanity."

"T... team leader..."

Haemin had to look at his boss, Minchan, in a new light. Usually he acted like an asshole, but today why was he looking so cool? No, he really looked cool.

"We could pray together, Team leader. I'm sure they will come back alive."

"It'll be tough."

"...?"

"Those bastards guarding the Return Stone are really difficult opponents."

"…!"

Of course, he knew that. That is why he said they should pray for their safe return...

"They'll eventually die..."

""

Weren't you hoping to see them come back alive?

He took back the sentiment.

If he wasn't his Team leader, he would have hit him. Haemin berated himself for thinking even for a brief moment that his team leader was cool.



"Hyung-nim! The Return Stone is over there."

After burning down the entire jungle, Woojin stepped forward to use his Search magic. The Return Stone was in the middle of a large open space, and it was floating on top of an altar.

At the thought of being able to escape this Dungeon fraught with danger, Sunggoo was about to run towards it. Woojin roughly held him back.

"Uh-uhk."

Sunggoo fell backwards after the back of his neck was grabbed. Before Sunggoo could turn to ask the question, 'Why?', the ground he stepped on collapsed on itself.

A cloud of dust rose into the air, and he could see a trap with bamboo spears on the bottom.

"Huh-uhk."

If he had taken one more step, than he would have died. Sunggoo's heart flipped in his chest. He was about to express his thanks, but Woojin was staring at something with a serious expression on his face.

When Sunggoo saw the beings that showed up, he lost the words he was about to say.

Chapter 29 Same Place (2)

"This is quite unexpected?"

Woojin frowned as he saw the figures of about 20 monsters.

<Lv 41 Orc Warrior>

<Lv 45 Orc Shaman>

He would have never dreamed orcs would show up here. Their level was visible through the Warrior's Sense, and it was fairly high. He had to assume their actual fighting power was much higher. These bastards were analogous to humans. When the monsters of this race gather in a group, they were able to work synergistically.

"Rakur Ri Maktoo, Ri Keo Alphen."

Sunggoo was surprised when bizarre words started to flow out from Woojin's mouth.

"Hy... hyung-nim?"

Sungoo wasn't the only one who was surprised. The orcs were surprised, and they started to murmur to each other.

[How can a human from earth speak the language of the orcs?]

Woojin made a bitter laugh. Orc were of a similar race. They were one of the tribes that made up Alphen's society. Woojin wondered how these orcs came to be in this Dungeon.

Weren't the Dungeons a route being used by Trahnet to invade Earth?

[Why are the Alphen's orcs here on earth?]

When Woojin replied in a similar words to their question, a large orc stepped forward.

[Who are you? How come a human from earth knows the Alphen's orc language?]

[That's not important. I'm asking why you are in this place.]

[We lost our base.]

Woojin was surprised at the orc's words.

[Does that mean Alphen was taken by Trahnet?]

The orc turned silent at Woojin's words. How could the human from earth know so much about the matters regarding Alphen?

[That's right. One piece of the counter weight disappeared, and Trahnet became the owner of everything. We are able to exist here after we made a contract with Trahnet.]

[Contract?]

[Earth will become our new base...]

The invasion of Earth.

Woojin frowned. It was a bullshit contract. Earth didn't belong to Trahnet in the first place.

"Do they want to die? How dare they come here?"

When Woojin spoke in Korean, Sunggoo asked with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

"Hyung-nim. Are you ok?"

"What?"

"I thought hyung-nim was speaking in tongues."

Sunggoo had genuinely been worried. Woojin had suddenly let out guttural sounds. Sunggoo's concern seeped with loyalty, and it awakened Woojin's senses.

< Warrior's Rage has been activated.>

< Variable Stats has been elevated. Duration time 29, 28... >

Whew. So this is what Rage is. Woojin bottled up his anger then he looked at the orcs. He had to direct his anger towards the orcs instead of Sunggoo. After they lost their homeland, they had crawled into someone else's land. Moreover, they were trying to take it away.

"I'm not afraid of a team battle."

If it was a team battle, he was confident he wouldn't lose.

"Bombard them."

At Woojin's words, the Skeleton Magicians on standby started to bombard the orcs with each of their own magic.

Shoooooo, Puh-puh-puhng!

The fire, ice and electricity magic flew like raining arrows toward the orc's position, and it scorched the earth. After a moment of disturbance, the cloud of dust subsided, and Sunggoo had a shocked expression at what he saw.

"Those... those bastards are unscathed?"

The orc shaman had used a barrier magic to protect themselves. Woojin grinned.

Whether it was the orcs or whatever else, he wouldn't allow them to take earth while he was here.

"Let's see if they could hold out against this."

If his magic wasn't working, then he just had to increase their power.

Woojin opened the Skill Window, and he immediately raised the level of Skeleton Magicians to 10.

"Kee-kee-keek."

The appearance of the Skeleton Magicians started to change. A black air current started to form around their emaciated bodies, and it materialized into a black robe.

If they stood still, one could mistake them for people with hood over their head.

The hands made out of the emaciated bones thrust out from between the robes. Then a light two times the size of the previous one formed to make magic.

"Shoot them."

At Woojin's command, magic that couldn't' even compared to the ones before started to rain down on the orcs.

Hwa-roo-rook, Puhng! Zzuh-zuh-zuhng, pah-jee-jeek!

When the fire ball made contact, it exploded. The ice froze its surrounding. The strengthened electric shock was the most effective against the orcs, since the orcs used tempered iron as weapons.

[Brave warriors! Charge!]

"Beat them before they charge."

Shoo-shoo-shook.

At Woojin's command, the Skeleton Magicians let out consecutive magic spells. When their level increased, the range, shooting rate and power of the magic had increased.

The orcs had been a good distance away. While they were charging towards Woojin, over half of them had died. When the orcs closed the distance, Woojin immediately canceled the summons for the 40 Skeleton Magicians.

Wa-rooroo.

Their body broke down, and a pile of bones was created. Woojin grinned.

"Let's change 2nd round into a different event."

He used the bones as medium to summon the Skeleton Soldiers.

"Kee-keee-keek!"

His 40 points of magic would all be used up, but he didn't care. He had other methods

he could use. He wasn't only about the magic.

"Well, let's go."

"Kekeke."

Woojin lifted his steel staff, and he charged. The Skeleton Soldiers quickly moved behind him. The orc's attacks were very strong. The Skeleton Soldiers were weak in endurance, so their skulls were broken after couple blows. However, Woojin didn't care.

Every time the orc brought down a Skeleton Soldier, it got injured. The next Skeleton Soldier would also wound the orc again as it fell. The orc couldn't face a Skeleton Soldier for the third time. It was killed after being pierced by a Skeleton Soldier's sword.

No matter how brave the orc warriors were they couldn't stand up against superior numbers. Woojin killed the last remaining orc. He crushed the orc shaman's skull then he let out a sigh.

"Maybe humans might show up in Dungeons soon."

"Hyung-nim. You are even good at telling jokes."

After the battle ended, Sunggoo was in a familiar territory. He quickly looted the items used by the orcs.

In front of Gwachun City Hall Station's 11th exit

Kim-haemin scratched his cheeks.

"Team leader. Isn't this getting pretty serious?"

"How long has it been?"

"It's been 6 hrs and 20 min."

At Haemin's words, Michan's expression also turned serious. The normal clear time

for a 4 star Dungeon was 4 hrs. That meant 20 hrs had passed within the Dungeon.

The two of them had already spent 25 hrs 20 min inside the Dungeon.

This meant they had survived for over a day within the Dungeon...

"Uh, uh, Team leader. The barrier."

Jung-michan gulped as he saw the barrier disintegrate.

Come out. Please come out alive.

He yelled those words inside, but he didn't see any changes at the bottom of the stairs.

"Ah..."

When he let out a small sigh, he heard the sound of footsteps on the stairs.

"Ah. Maybe I should take a cart next time."

Woojin and Sunggoo complained as they carried up the leather armors and weapons worn by the orcs. They were bring up a lot of stuff.

"C... congratulation on your safe return."

Minchan ran down the stairs, and he was emotional as he grabbed Woojin. Woojin stared back at him with a blank face.

"Why are you making such a fuss?"

"What?"

"Ah. Just Go down and bring those stuff up."

"Ah..."

Woojin and Suggoo had gathered a massive amount of loot. They had 2 full bags of bloodstones, and the size of the bloodstones couldn't even be compared to the ones in the lower Dungeons.

Moreover, the equipment worn by the orcs were quite valuable. They also brought iron weapons, animal leathers, and rough cloths. It was items that could be purchased on earth. However, these were valuable since it could pass through the portals.

Any Roused could enter the low ranked Dungeons. It was possible for them to take modern items. Those Dungeons were basically neutral territories.

However, the higher ranked Dungeons only allowed the Roused to come across the portal. Modern items were useless.

When Woojin returned to the other side of the portal after obtaining the Return Stone, his clothes, hand-phone and bloodstone bags were strewn all over the floor.

They had to bring those items out too with the loot.

With the help of Minchan, Woojin and Sunggoo were sorting the loot.

"You are saying I could exchange the bloodstones at the exchange store, but it is up to us to sell the other items?"

"Yes. That's correct. Wait a moment..."

Minchan opened the sportsbag, and he took out a scanner. He brought it over the items as if he was scanning it.

"Mmmm. They are all normal items. There are no artifacts. However, these items came out the Dungeon, so they should be quite valuable..."

"So where do I go to sell this?"

"Usually the support division of the guilds takes care of it..."

Michan stopped speaking, and he looked at Woojin to see how he responded. Would it be okay for him to talk about it?

"Well, if you enter a guild, then the support division will take care of these minor tasks....."

"It does sound convenient."

"Why don't you enter into our guild? I promise we will give you the best treatment.""

"Ah, that's all right. Why don't uncle's guild buy some of this stuff. It'll be inconvenient for me to carry these around."

""

Michan bought all the loot Woojin had brought. He also gave a good price on it.

\$110,000.

"The profit here isn't that great."

"I guess so. However, wasn't it a bit easier than before?"

Sunggoo knew what Woojin was getting at. At the Rakwi spawn site, he was busy extracting the bloodstones, so this was a bit easier for Sunggoo. Woojin also never felt he was in danger at that place. However, if he thought about the profit in terms of how much they made per hour, the 3 star Dungeons was a better option.

""

The gears inside Jung-minchan's mind started to spin quickly. By loooking at Woojin and Suggoo's reaction, it seemed they had never really been in danger inside this Dungeon.

'Maybe he is Rank A.'

Minchan felt his heart pound. If it was possible, he wanted to accompany Woojin into the Dungeon. He wanted to see with his own eyes as to how he attacked the Dungeon.

This particular Roused had only attacked the Dungeons on three occasions yet he shook Minchan's heart. This was the first time he had felt this way.

"Please give me your phone number."

"No."

"Please give it to me."

"You are going to bother me if I do." *""* Of course. Minchan wasn't going to lose the Roused he had an eye on. However, Woojin was a tough cookie. He had given a lot of help to Woojin and Sunggoo even though they weren't members of his guild. However, he didn't want to lord it over them. It seemed Woojin didn't feel thankful towards him. It felt like his treatment of Woojin was considered as matter of course. "Let's coincidentally meet again next time." When the money was deposited, Woojin brushed himself off, and he stood up. Minchan didn't have any reason he could use to stop him. "I'll see you out." "Ah, it's all right." "Haha. I insist. Let's go." Hamein followed after the two, and he saw them off from the parking lot. Minchan felt dejected as he sat down. Soon, Haemin hurriedly came running back. "Team leader! I got it." "What did you get?" "His phone number." Mincha's eyes turned round, and he looked at the phone number in Haemin's grasp. [Kang-woojin 010-12xx-xxxx] "Are you sure this isn't a fake number?"

"No. I called it up."

"Huh. If he was going to give it away so easily then why did he play so hard to get?"

"I... I'm not sure."

Minchan frowned. He couldn't make heads or tails of this situation. Previously, he acted like he would reject joining the guild yet his action right now left some room for doubt. It seems he isn't entirely opposed to joining the guild.

'Is he some kind of an expert at negotiations?'

Michan thought Woojin was a 24 year old young man, who was short on experience in society. He had to revise this opinion. After thinking for a long time, Minchan suddenly asked a question.

"What did you say that convinced him to give you his number?"

"I just said I wanted to have some soju with him next time?"

""

Ha. He had no idea what was going on inside of Wooijn.

Chapter 30 Same Place (3)

Inside Sunggoo's car

"Huh. I guess Krocodile leather sells for a high price?"

"I... I guess so."

Woojin looked through the presents given by Minchan. Among the several items, he was looking at the Gwachun City Hall subway station's 11th exit guidebook. It listed which monsters were present in the Dungeon, and the pattern they showed up in. It also listed the vulnerable points. There were a variety of information that were essential in attacking the Dungeon.

It listed how much a part of a monster could be sold for. It also described the valuable plants and what types of valuable ores could be found there.

These were easily found items. Woojin hadn't known it, but there was a robust market for these items in this reality.

"Well, it's too bad, but I can't do anything about it now."

Woojin knew he hadn't been able to bring out a lot of things, but he didn't feel any regret over it. Also, in the future, he didn't have to think about gathering all those items by himself.

"Hey Sunggoo. You take care of it next time."

"...Yes."

Sunggoo would rather excavate the bloodstones. If he had to dismember monster's corpses to bring the valuable parts, it was a little bit...

'Ah, my dream of becoming a flame magician...'

The desire to advance his ability was as strong as the desire to make money. He really respected the high ranked Roused. After meeting Woojin, Sunggoo had more occasion to use the butcher knife instead of using his flame magic.

He had become a master at extracting bloodstones, but his flame ability was in a standstill.

However, he had made a contract, so he planned on being faithful to his job as a manager for 1 year. The amount of money he made was unimaginably larger than before. He would steadily save the money, then he'll buy a magic scroll to raise his ability.

"By the way, hyung-nim."

"Uh, what?"

Woojin's eyes were glued to the guidebook, and he replied in a distracted manner.

"So why did you give your phone number to assistant manager Kim?"

"He said he wanted to have some soju with me."

Was it that simple? Is he trying to act heroic? Maybe he is stu... No. Hyung-nim isn't like that.

"Since assistant manager Kim knows your number, doesn't that mean Team leader Jung will also know your phone number?"

"He'll find out about it."

"Then why did you give it to him?"

"Well, why not?"

Woojin turned his head to look at Sunggoo. Woojin answered in such a dignified manner that Sunggoo thought back to see if he asked the wrong question.

"Hyung-nim. Are you going to join a guild?"

"Nope."

"I... I thought you didn't like being bothered? That Team leader Jung seemed like a pretty persistent person."

Woojin grinned.

"Let me ask you this. After you block spam mails, does the spam mails stop coming?"

"It shows up even if it is blocked."

"No. We just need to show moderate amount of interest. Then they'll introduce us to Dungeons like today, and they'll give us presents. How great would that be?"

He... he was enjoying this. Of course, hyung-nim's heart is really...

"If it's inside the Dungeon, do you think he will follow in after me? How about when I'm not in the Dungeon? I don't have anything else to do. I have a lot of time on my hand."

""

"He'll eventually give up after he gets tired."

E... evil.

Sunggoo grabbed the steering wheel in silence. Woojin was absentmindedly looking out the window when his eyes widened.

"Uh? Isn't that Jaemin?"

"What? That's the student living with hyung-nim?"

"Yeah. Pull your car alongside him."

Sunggoo's car stopped next to the sidewalk. Woojin got out of the passenger seat then he yelled as if he was glad to see Jaemin.

"JaeminJaemin!"

"Uh?"

Jaemin was taken aback. He had come out near the school to eat out with his sister. He saw woojin wave at him with a bright smile. Jaemin unconsciously lowered his head.

"Hello, hyung."

Top floor of the Hammer guild

One of the 10 rank A Roused in Korea was here.

[Guild Master Park-sahngoh]

The intercom placed behind the his desk's nameplate rang. His secretary's voice came out when he pressed the button.

[President. The 3rd Support Team leader is here for a visit.]

"Let him in."

Bbbiiii.

The intercom turned off, then the door opened soon after. The passionate support team leader was the same age as him. He was 35 years old. He had joined the Hammer guild late, but he had made significant contributions in helping the Hammer guild expand.

He managed the lower Dungeon, which were the main source of funds for the guild, with a steady hand. He also had the ability to find talented prospects, so he stood out from others in the guild.

"President. I'm hear to give my scouting progress report. It is about Kang-woojin, who I had reported to you before."

"Have you succeeded?"

"Not yet..."

"Didn't I give you all jurisdiction regarding this manner? You don't have to give me progress reports. Perhaps, your negotiation isn't going well?"

It would have been great if there had been an actual negotiation. The problem was Woojin didn't even think about negotiating.

"If Team leader Jung is keeping tabs on him, then I don't care about how much he wants. I'll leave it up to your discretion. Scout him if you want."

"You will have to settle a matter regarding him."

Woojin was already able to make a lot of money. No, he had found an amazing hunting method that allowed him to make as much money in the 3 star Dungeon as the 4 star Dungeon.

He needed something more than money to entice him.

Park-sahngoh looked at the document he had to sign, and he frowned.

"Do we really need give him the position of vice-president? Does he really have that much worth? Hah. The vice president seat is no joke......"

Park-sahngoh looked through the other files. Kang-woojin's background was written in detail

"He returned after he went missing for 5 years. As soon as he came back, he went to the 2 star Dungeon once and 3 star Dungeon once. Today, he completed a 4 star Dungeon once."

"Yes. I predict he is a Rouse possessing a very outstanding ability."

"Have you seen it?"

"What?"

"I said have you seen it."

"I haven't seen it yet, but my prediction..."

Park-sahngoh threw the documents, then he leaned back to bury his body into his chair's backrest.

"Look here. Team leader Jung."

"Yes, president."

They were of the same age, but there was a large gulf between the boss and a subordinate inside the company. Minchan had the better educational background, but the gap between them was large. It was like the difference between a Roused and a civilian.

"If he was really that competent, then why would I spare the cost of giving the vice president seat? However, this is laughable. The position of vice president in the Hammer guild isn't some part time job. This guy is a baby who only cleared the Dungeons three times. He isn't a known quantity. How can we give him the position solely based on potential?"

There were additional problems.

"Moreover, his potential is based only on team leader's hunch?"

Boo-dook.

Jung-minchan gritted his teeth. He had brought in numerous outstanding individuals based on his hunch. Hammer guild was one step in front of the other guilds in terms of finding talents, and Minchan had a lot to do with it.

"He has to display his potential in a tangible way. If that isn't possible, find out about his abilities. Then I will be able to decide if he is worth the investment the guild will have to put out for him. How long did you expect us to make an investment solely on Team leader Jung's hunch? It isn't like you are successful every single time?"

He was right.

Numerous Roused were brought in at Jung-minchan's strong assertion, and there were a lot of them who hadn't reached their potential yet.

Still, if the president would just think of all the times they made a profit, this level of investment shouldn't be too much...

"We shouldn't throw around the vice president seat easily. Everywhere we go people will look down on us. It'll bring down the Hammer guild's prestige. Do you understand?"

"Yes..."

Bbiiiiii.

The intercom rang just in time. He pressed the button and his secretary's voice leaked out.

[President. The vice president is here for a visit.]

Vice president Park-jinwoo.

He was the greatest talent found by Team leader Jung-minchan. He was a 27 years old with a handsome face. Recently, he made a lot of appearance on tv, so he was as popular as an entertainer.

He was also the only other Rank A Roused in the Hammer Guild aside from the president. His worth to the guild didn't even need an explanation.

Park-jinwoo was tall, and he was wearing a suit. When he opened the president's door to come in, he came face to face with Team leader Jung-minchan. Jinwoo's eyes became round, and he smiled as he gave his greeting.

"Uh? Team leader Jung was here..."

"Yes. Well, please go have your conversation with him."

In the past, he had merely been a cub when Minchan had found. However, he was a vice president now. His station was markedly different from the past.

Jung-minchan walked passed him with a rigid expression, and Park-jinwoo shrugged his shoulders. By looking at this mood, it seemed he was chewed out by the president again.

Still, he had recognized Park-jinwoo during his noob Roused days. Minchan had also introduced him to the Hammer guild, so he had an attachment towards him.

"What's going on with Team leader?"

"Chet. I don't know. He saw some necromancer, and he want to give the guy one of the vice president seat."

Park-jinwoo laughed at the annoyed words of the president.

"If Team leader Jung is advocating for him, then don't we have to try to catch him no matter what?"

"What do you mean catch him no matter what. I think that guy's eyes have deteriorated. Every kid he brings in are mediocre now."

Recently, the prospects found by team leader Jungminchan was very mediocre. They were talented, but they didn't develop fast enough.

"The fact that Team leader Jung was able to recognize your talent was pure luck."

"Eh-ee. Still, don't be too harsh on him."

"Chet. All right. Anyways, how was your work in the US?"

Park-jinwoo.

He had the wholehearted support of the guild, since he was a Rank A Roused. He was also the representative of the Hammer guild, so he had been elevated to the position of vice president.

The Guild Conference opened in the US. As the representative for the Hammer Guild, he had to participate in it. He had just returned from New York.

Park-jinwoo's expression turned serious.

"I looked at the surrounding moods, and I think the rumor is correct..."

"It's true?"

President Park-sahngoh also put on a serious expression. There was a very weird rumor circulating between guilds that started not too long ago. He had sent the vice president to the conference to confirm whether if the rumor was true.

"In your opinion, who procured it?"

"I think it's the Titans."

"The Titans..."

There were several large guilds in the US, but if one had to choose the best, one would pick the Titan. It was an obvious choice. If the rumor was true then the possibility of the Titan having the person was highly probable.

"A person who came out of a Dungeon..."

Park-sahngoh's face had turned serious. Should he call that person an alien? Should he call the person a new species? He hadn't seen this person, so he had nothing to say.

No. It might be a rumor made up by Titan in the first place. The absolute truth would probably only be known to the top executive of the Titans.

If the rumor was true, this would be the first such incident since the Dungeons formed 5 years ago.



In the heart of Manhattan, a limousine parked in front of an building that rose into the sky in an imposing manner. People who looked like security surrounded the car. They quickly moved to open the trunk and they took out a wheelchair.

The limousine's door opened, and a brown haired middle-aged woman moved to the wheelchair.

A blonde beauty in a tidy outfit approached her with a smile on her face.

"Mrs Hamilton. Was there any discomfort in coming here?"

"Discomfort? This is the first time I've traveled in such luxury."

She had flown here by plane for 6 hours. However, there wasn't a single moment in the journey where she felt discomfort.

"Thank you for accepting our guild's request."

"It's no problem. If someone needs my help, I'll most definitely agree to it."

Mrs. Hamilton was America's most respected psychotherapist. With guidance from

the blonde beauty, they headed towards the top floor of the guild.

"Mrs Hamilton. Before you meet the patient, you will have to sign this contract."

The contract given to her by the blonde beauty was a commonly seen contract. It was a non-disclosure agreement. Many wealthy individuals were her regular customers, so she was used to seeing such agreements as their psychotherapist.

When she signed the contract, the blonde beauty guided her to the patient's room. She was handed a concise summary of her patient. Hamilton asked in confusion as she read it.

"Does she have global aphasia?"

"Yes."

Mrs. Hamilton didn't ask any more about the patient's diagnosis. The file only had information regarding the symptoms exhibited by the patient. It didn't have any person information on it.

"She doesn't have any name, birthplace, age or anything"

The blonde beauty nodded her head.

"She was rescued from a Dungeon."

""

"Your job is to find her voice again, Mrs. Hamilton. It is your job to fill the empty personal information of the patient."

The beautiful blonde secretary led Mrs. Hamilton to a room. When she entered the room after opening the door, she couldn't help but yell in surprise.

"Oh my God."

She had never seen such a beauty in her life.

Even as a fellow woman, her almost unrealistic beauty surprised Mrs. Hamilton.

As befitting a 5 star hotel, the room was decorated in an extravagant manner. However, it didn't even register in her eyes. She could only look at her.

She was simply a mysterious beauty with unearthly beauty. Moreover, she also gave off an unearthly feeling.

For a woman, who was rescued from a Dungeon, her face was too peaceful. Pyschotherapist Hamilton quietly approached her in the wheelchair.

The secretary stood by her side as she looked on.

After calming herself a little bit, Mrs. Hamilton started speaking towards the unidentified beauty. While Hamilton was calming down, the unidentified beauty had put on a faint smile, and it made her look very alien.

"Hello. My name is Mrs. Hamilton."

The beauty didn't respond at all to her gentle greeting. She couldn't speak, but her eyes was letting out a light as if she was yearning for something.

"If it's too difficult, you don't have to speak. Do you want to write to me? Or you could draw some pictures."

As if they had already tried this, the table next to them had a paper and pen on top of it. Hamilton smiled as she started to draw a picture first.

She just had to go slow. Maladies doesn't suddenly get better in an instant. She couldn't suddenly make a hole through the barrier in her heart. She can only get closer to her a little bit at a time.

The most important thing was always having sincerity in one's heart.

"I'm ready. I want to understand you."

[Can you hear me?]

"What?"

Hamilton was surprised when a clear voice rang out inside her head. She turned to look at the secretary.

"Did you just hear someone speak?"

"What? I didn't hear anything..."

[Your trust allowed you to receive my voice.]

Hamilton's surprise-filled eyes turned towards the unidentified beauty. It was as if the light in her eyes were speaking to her. It was as if that was her voice.

"I... I can hear you."

[I guess my god hasn't abandoned me yet.]

"My God."

The beauty's lips hadn't moved yet she was sure the woman was speaking to her. Her voice was clearly heard by Hamilton's ears.

[May you grant me my request?]

"How... how are you able to speak to me? Who are you? How can this be...?"

The confused secretary looked at the flustered Hamilton, who was talking to herself. She couldn't hear the patient's voice at all.

Only Mrs. Hamilton was able to hear her voice.

[I've been rude.]

She had abruptly asked for a request. The unidentified beauty slowly stood up from her bed. With an elegant movement, she bowed. When Mrs. Hamilton saw this, she could only look on dumbfoundedly.

[I am Alphen's Seventh Highest. I am the Mother of the Land. I am the Divine Wing, and the Voice of Aria. My name is Melody.]

"My God."

She was the holy priestess of the church of Aria. Her name was Melody.

She had taken her first step on earth.



Fifth with TAN